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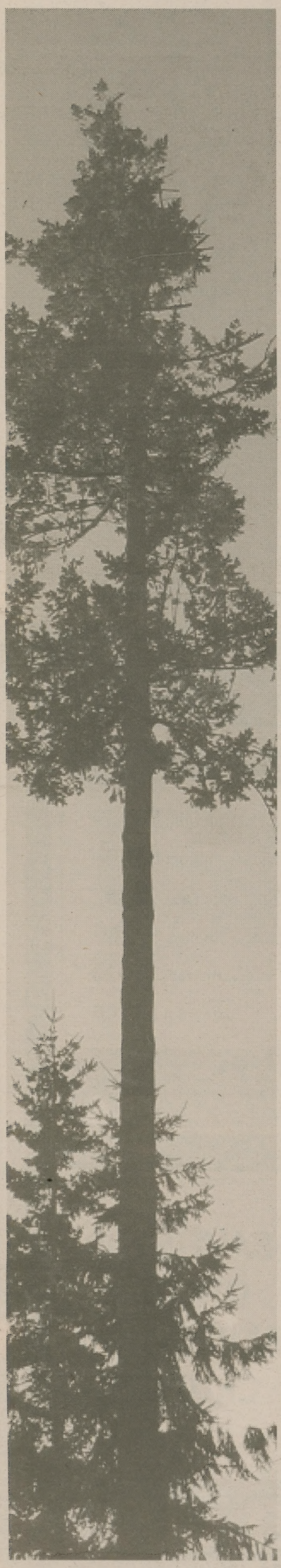

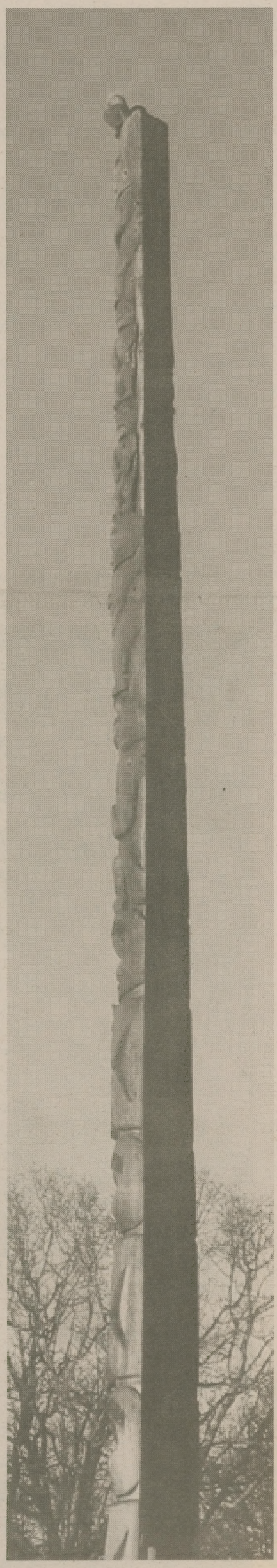

Tsunami has a history in B.C.

by Patrick Szpak

The coasts of British Columbia and Vancouver Island are no strangers to tsunamis. Like the area where the quake struck off of Indonesia, British Columbia lies along the Ring of Fire, a region known for generating the majority of the world's most powerful earthquakes.

The last great waves to strike British Columbia were a result of a 9.2 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Alaska on March 27, 1964.

The so-called Good Friday tsunamis raced down British Columbia's coast and hammered Prince Rupert, Tofino, Hot Springs Cove, Zeballos and Port Alberni.

Port Alberni was devastated due to its location at the end of the Alberni Inlet. The inlet focused the wave's energy and increased its destructive potential. Fifty-five homes were destroyed, dragged off their foundations and pulled out to sea, and many hundreds were damaged. According to witnesses, cars and boats were tossed around like children's toys by an eight-foot wave travelling at over 385 kilometres per hour.

No one was killed in Canada, although there was millions of dollars of property damage. More than 100 Alaskans perished. The lack of deaths in Port Alberni was mostly due to luck, as tidal flooding preceded the big wave. Many residents took the flooding as a sign of an impending tsunami and fled before the main wave arrived. A provincial government report later stated that the province had learned a cheap lesson in the need for disaster planning, civil preparedness and warning systems along its coast.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The Good Friday tsunamis in 1964 left millions of dollars in damage along the coast of Vancouver Island, including in Port Alberni, where this photo was taken.

Critics worry that warning system is not enough

by Patrick Szpak
and Bryna Hallam

After tsunamis hit the coast of British Columbia in 1964, the provincial government developed a tsunami warning system.

But some worry that it won't help.

British Columbia's warning system has yet to be fully tested by tsunamis similar in size and force of those that struck countries in the Indian Ocean.

Moreover, John Oakley, an official with British Columbia's Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), says the warning system only works for waves created far from the coast.

"If it occurred right off the coast of Vancouver Island, by the time the notification system went into effect, the tsunami would have already been generated," he said.

In response to concerns raised about British Columbia's warning system, PEP is planning workshops in coastal communities later this month. The workshops are designed to help residents improve their emergency plans based on the lessons learned from the Asian tsunamis.

PEP director Bob Bugslag says the workshops will look at how prepared residents are to evacuate to safer ground.

"We need to see those improvements in all coastal communities," says Bugslag, "and we need people to engage the citizens in those communities so they understand the dynamics of an earthquake and a tsunami, and what they should do on a personal level to prepare for it."

The provincial system is linked to and receives warning from the U.S.-based tsunami warning system in Alaska that sends warnings to all Pacific nations if the risk of a tsunami is detected.

Once a tsunami warning has been received, communities and agencies such as the Coast Guard, RCMP, government and military will be warned and will spring into action.

Media outlets will be alerted and will blanket TV, cell phones and radio with tsunami warning bulletins.

Communities differ in their emergency plans. Some maintain "doomsday" tsunami sirens, while others rely on teams of people to fan out door to door and phone those at risk.

WHAT TO DO IF THE BIG WAVES COME

by Bryna Hallam

The probability that a tsunami will hit our coast is small—but very real. In the event of a tsunami, the British Columbia Provincial Emergency Program recommends the following:

- Move to higher ground, until an all-clear bulletin is issued.
- If you live in a coastal area and feel strong shaking from an earthquake, prepare to move immediately to higher ground (greater than 20 metres or 60 feet above the tide line).
- Do not wait for an official warning. If a tsunami were to be generated close to B.C. waves could reach shore within a few minutes.
- If you hear a tsunami bulletin, follow information and instructions immediately.
- If a tsunami evacuation order is given, move immediately to higher ground (greater than 20 metres or 60 feet above the tide line).
- Stay tuned to your radio for updates.
- Do not use the telephone except to report life-threatening emergencies.
- Do not go to the beach to watch.
- Remember all areas of the coastline will not be impacted equally.

Source: Provincial Emergency Program

CORRECTION

In the feature article "Struggling to be bohemian in B.C." (Oct. 21, 2004), Andrea Dupuis referred to: "Luciano's, the bar formerly known as Suze Lounge." The section should have read "Suze Lounge, which has since been replaced by Luciano's." Luciano's does not serve absinthe, nor does it have an employee named Julie. We apologize for the confusion.

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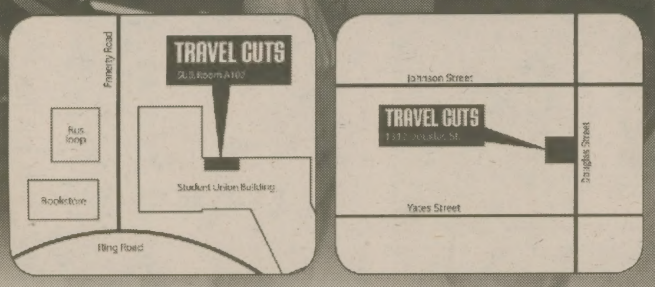

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A man in Phuket, Thailand, surveys the damage left when tsunamis swept through South Asia Dec. 26.

Quake, tsunami devastate Asia

by Patrick Szpak

The carnage wrought by the Indian Ocean Boxing Day tsunamis is overwhelming. With over 155,000 confirmed killed at the time of writing and hundreds of thousands yet to be accounted for, it is already one of the worst natural disasters in recorded history.

The deadly waves were caused by a massive 9.0 magnitude earthquake 160 kilometres west of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The tsunamis spread across the Indian Ocean with colossal speed and power. The waves slammed into Indonesia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, the Maldives, Malaysia and even as far away as Somalia—4,500 kilometres from the quake's epicentre—where 176 are reported to have been killed.

There was little or no warning. Although the quake's epicentre was at the extreme western edge of the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire—a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the basin of the Pacific Ocean and accounts for over 80 per cent of the world's earthquakes—none of states hit maintained tsunami warning systems in the Indian Ocean. The only warning for many of the victims was the shaking ground from the quake and a suddenly receding sea, followed minutes later by lethal walls of water.

Indonesia is by far the worst hit, especially the province of Aceh on the northern tip of Sumatra. The Indonesian government has confirmed 90,000 killed and has stopped providing exact body counts as it struggles to cope with chaos in affected areas.

Other heavily hit states include Sri Lanka with 50,000 killed, India with 9,479 killed and Thailand with 4,993 killed.

Five thousand tourists have also been killed, including six Canadians; 150 Canadians are still missing.

The potential for even higher body counts remains likely. Thousands are still missing and millions have been displaced by the waves, their homes, villages and towns razed to the ground. Disease and hunger stalk the survivors who lack clean water and are now vulnerable to a myriad of water-borne diseases that could spark an epidemic.

The international community has been galvanized to act by the enormity of the disaster. Over $2 billion has already been pledged, with Japan pledging $500 million and the United States $350 million. The Canadian government has committed $80 million. In addition, more than $50 million has been donated by Canadian citizens.

Michael Elmquist, a deputy to the head of the UN's Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, has called it "the greatest and biggest aid effort in the world."

The Canadian government has mobilized its Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and is sending it to the Ampara region of Sri Lanka's badly hit east coast. The 200-member DART unit will arrive on Saturday and will immediately begin operations focusing on providing clean water and medical care.

Tsunami coming soon to B.C.

by Bryna Hallam

The devastation produced by the tsunamis in the Indian Ocean has caused many Canadians to look nervously to our long Pacific coastline and ask: Could it happen here?

"Yes," confirms Alison Bird, an earthquake seismologist at the Geological Survey of Canada office in Sidney. "We are going to have a megathrust earthquake sometime."

There is evidence that megathrust earthquakes occur every few hundred years. The last one to occur off British Columbia's coast was in 1700, and stress is building for another. It is likely that another earthquake will strike within the next few hundred years. As Bird points out, the more time goes by, the more likely it is that one will happen.

"It could be tomorrow," she said. "We can't predict it."

A megathrust earthquake is an earthquake where one tectonic plate slips under another. British Columbia is susceptible because it lies along the area where the Juan de Fuca plate is slipping under the North American plate, an area bordering the Californian San Andreas fault line.

Because the plates are so large, these earthquakes are among the world's largest and often result in magnitudes above 9.0 on the Richter scale. These earthquakes often result in undersea landslides and a vertical displacement of water, which in turn trigger tsunamis.

Megathrust earthquakes are characterized by stronger and longer-lasting shaking than smaller earthquakes. There are estimates that the shaking in Sumatra during the recent earthquake lasted as long as seven minutes.

According to Bird, shaking inland and farther from the epicentre could last even longer but would be slower and less sharp.

Following an earthquake far out in the Pacific Ocean, it may take hours for waves to reach British Columbia. But the Canadian Hydrographic Service predicts that some communities along the west coast of Vancouver Island could be hit by huge waves with as little as 15 minutes' warning.

Models show that waves as high as five to 10 metres—the height of a three- to four-storey building—would crash into the west coast of Vancouver Island, says CHS spokesperson Fred Stephenson. This is similar to the size of waves that did so much damage in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and India.

By the time waves reach Victoria, speculated Stephenson, they would likely be between one and four metres high. As the water moved through the Straight of Georgia, the energy would dissipate and the waves would be smaller.

Stephenson believes that the best way for people to prepare for a tsunami is to be educated about the phenomena. "Education is going to be the biggest bang for the buck over the next 10 or 100 years," he said, noting that while the outer coast of Vancouver Island could have as little as 15 minutes warning of a tsumami, Victoria would have at least 90 minutes.

"If you feel the earth shaking," he said, "get away [from the coast] and stay away." Receding water is another sign of a coming tsunami.

Despite the risk of a megathrust earthquake and a tsunami, Bird points out that the hazard in British Columbia is more from normal, smaller earthquakes. "They're a lot more frequent and they can still be damaging," she said.

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Anti-corporate blogging mass marketed for consumption

by Michelle Martin

Once they were lone rangers navigating uncharted territory within an elusive network of online information sharing known as the blogsphere. Today, less than a decade since bloggers began typing their digressions on low-to-no cost web journals, some big media corporations are embracing, even promoting, blogs.

"It's the revolution of citizen journalism . . . a way to get around the gatekeepers," said Hanson Hosein, an award-winning broadcast journalist, in a recent interview. In 2004 he posted a personal blog from Iraq as an *NBC News* correspondent. "There's a hunger for more information delivered differently."

Although most blogs contain personal chatter devoid of politics and controversy, some high-profile journalistic-style bloggers have become trusted information sources with devoted readerships. In these cases, critics jump to scrutinize the narrative-driven, uncensored nature of the medium. Jim Elve, father of BlogsCanada, a database of political blogs, believes most blogging is "opinion editorializing punditry, as opposed to news reporting."

Elve believes blogging has "equalized the playing field." Some blogs are even hailed as an alternative to corporate media. Hosein says corporate media presents a much more conservative view of the world and "is perceived as bland, self-serving and sometimes corrupt" (a perception rooted in some uncanny corporate connections). For example, General Electric (GE) not only owns *NBC News*, but also General Electric Aircraft Engines, a company that has won numerous high-paying contracts from the US Department of Defense during the war in Iraq. Yet when Hosein began blogging in Iraq, he said NBC did not see it as a threat. "They saw it as an opportunity."

Award-winning journalist Kevin Sites had already set the precedent when he began blogging war commentary in Iraq on his personal website, www.kevinsites.net, in early 2004. At the time, Sites was a CNN war correspondent and, according to his blog, CNN "politely" asked him to stop blogging. So, he did for seven months. However, when he later went on assignment for *NBC News*, they allowed him to continue writing.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Hanson Hosein mixes blogs with corporate media.

On his widely read website, Sites claims to "play it straight down the middle—not to become a tool of propaganda for the left or the right." However, for bloggers and journalists alike, claims of objectivity are up to the reader's interpretation. During the 2004 battle in Falluja, Sites blogged, "The Marines are operating with liberal rules of engagement. . . . The marines can shoot whatever they see—it's all considered hostile."

Recent controversy surrounding Sites' filming of a U.S. soldier's seemingly unjustified shooting of a wounded Iraqi insurgent has led some critics to dub Sites as an anti-war activist. Nevertheless, shortly following this event, an *NBC News* anchor plugged Sites' blog on air and MSNBC's website (an *NBC News* affiliate co-owned by GE) prominently displayed a link to Sites' blog report of the shooting under its "news headlines" section.

MSNBC also posts five blogs on its website. "MSNBC has been encouraging this because they want to be funky and cool and it's the hip thing to do," said Hosein.

Even Canada's conservative *National Post* has a blog called Across the Board where members of its editorial board discuss their impressions of the day's major news stories.

There has been much discussion about what corporate actions like these mean for the future of blogging and the media. But as the trend evolves, all anyone can do is speculate. With its fragmentation, some hail blogging as a more democratic alternative. However, blogging is not exempt from traditional media's tendency to conglomerate. For example, Elve has even created a political blog database on his website.

Regardless of whether blogging stays fragmented or becomes increasingly centralized, Hosein wonders if a greater variety of information outlets has any affect on people's political views.

"Who knows if any of us are actually learning anything new," Hosein said. "Since there are so many choices now, many of us just choose to read, watch and listen to what we want to hear."

Elve does not see blogging as competition to big media either. "Popular political blogs are echo chambers," he said.

However, with the "echo chamber" concept in mind, Elve formed a "dialogue chamber" on his website prior to the 2004 Canadian federal election. In this multi-participant blog, a diverse group of political commentators discussed Canadian politics. This experiment proves that even if blogs become centralized, there are still opportunities for diverse views to be represented within the blogs' content.

Regardless of corporate media's co-option of blogging and the possibility of centralization in the blogsphere, the symbolism of the medium in the fight for media democracy should not be forgotten. "Blogging could be a phase or fad, it could disappear. But it represents something deeper," said Hosein. "The bottom line is that the Internet and broadband is quickly changing the media landscape."

For a few, such as the famous Iraqi blogger Salam Pax, blogging has been a gateway into the mainstream media. But considering the millions of grassroots bloggers, stories like this are exceptional. "It's more a labour of love and service," said Elve, who makes only a few hundred dollars a month on advertising from BlogsCanada, despite its relative prestige in the blogsphere (search for "blogs" on Google and Elves' comes up sixth—out of 30 million).

Some speculators believe that with blogging, big media has lost its monopoly. Yet this far-reaching claim doesn't quite mesh with the views of blogger/journalist Dan Gillmor. In his blogging-focused book, *We the Media*, he notes that journalism in the 21st century will be fundamentally different. Yet he does not necessarily believe that corporate media and blogging conflict.

"[Bloggers] have joined the journalism ecosystem. It's more symbiosis than rivalry," he said in an interview with *Wired News*. And with the mainstream media's acceptance of blogging, his theory seems to be right on target.

First appeared in Straight Goods *http://straightgoods.com*

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NEWS BRIEFS

UVSS board chooses environment over carpet

A visit to Felicita's this semester will be the same as last, much to the frustration of UVSS director of finance, Agata Lis.

At a cost of $12,000, the pub's carpet and dance floor were set to be replaced during the recent winter holiday, but at a Dec. 14 UVSS board meeting, one day before construction was to be finalized, the plans were scrapped.

Lis said she has received "a lot of student complaints about the state of the carpet" and that she had the support of SUB general manager, Marne Jensen, who saw new flooring as a good investment.

However, the board voted to stall the construction in favour of investigating the environmental impact of the chosen materials used in the renovation.

"I think it would be really beneficial and reflect well on the Students' Society if we installed a floor that was environmentally sound," said Pride Rep, Branden Beatty.

—*M.S.*

Victoria College alum Pierre Burton dies

Canadian historian, writer and television personality Pierre Berton died last month of heart failure.

At one point, Berton was writing up to 15,000 words a day, including his column in *the Toronto Star*. He was the managing editor of *Maclean's* magazine at age 31; he was a CBC broadcaster and hosted the Pierre Berton Show for eleven years; and he penned readable, compelling Canadian histories and wonderful children's stories.

Berton earned three Governor General awards for non-fiction, two National Newspaper Awards, was made a Companion of the Order of Canada and was voted one of the nation's Greatest Canadians. On top of all that, he demonstrated his ability to roll a joint on Rick Mercer's comedy, Monday Report.

What few people know, however, is that Berton got his start in writing and publishing at UVic. In 1938, 18-year-old Berton, a student at Victoria College, wrote for the precursor to *the Martlet*, *the Microscope*.

In a 50-year chronology of *the Martlet*, Berton wrote that he was "determined" to be published. "I went home [one] night," he remembered, "[and] typed out a third page for the two-page paper. Thus I did insinuate myself into the editorial staff, which now numbered three."

Berton later enrolled at UBC and described his stint at the university paper, *the Ubyssey*, as one of the most influential events of his life.

He was 84.

—*M.S.*

Study space good for UVic and business

by Megan Stewart

The SUB is expanding.

The University of Victoria Students' Society has opened a downtown study space on the corner of Broughton and Douglas inside E-Biz, a business-startup company.

Mike Tan, the UVSS director of services, says students will benefit from an off-campus place to crack textbooks, study notes or meet with classmates.

"There aren't many places downtown to study or work on projects," said Tan, who believes an extra trip to campus can be a significant inconvenience for busy students.

"It's not about moving students downtown or about taking them off-campus, but about creating a new study space. It's an extension of the SUB."

The study space consists of a single cubicle, a flat-screen computer, free Internet access, and photocopying rates on par with those at Zap.

UVic alumni are also promised access to the study site, which only accommodates two people at a time.

E-Biz is a private company that rents office space and equipment, and offers business advice, mentoring and support services. It also promises student rates for budding entrepreneurs, and along with space for UVic students, the start-up service is gunning to open similar cubicles for Camosun and Royal Rhodes students.

CEO of E-Biz, Greg Selfe, is particularly interested in drawing business-oriented students and alumni to the downtown location. He sees "bigger benefits" in the encouragement and development of young entrepreneurs and admits that business loyalty is "definitely a focus."

"What we do here is business development," said Selft, a one-time stockbroker. "This [study space] may not apply to all students but possibly those with aspirations to start up their own business."

Selfe's aim is to provide "extreme" value for up-and-coming entrepreneurs, and E-Biz provides multiple tiers of service as simple as means of communication and office space, or as sophisticated as financial advice, business mentoring, secretarial support, and networking. Students are eligible for discount rates.

Dr. Brock Smith, a UVic assistant professor specializing in marketing and entrepreneurship, says the business focus of the downtown study space is a good thing, but wonders if the support services aren't a mere duplication of the university's Innovation and Development Corporation (IDC).

The IDC helps UVic students and faculty refine business ideas and focus on concrete plans that require some detailed polishing, not a helping-hand through the initial phases as E-Biz offers.

E-Biz, said Smith, "might be better suited for earlier projects, but as a small-business consultation group, any assistance [they] can provide to young entrepreneurs is good."

Water privatization a war for the 21st century

by Catarina Costa

Considering 70 per cent of the Earth is covered in water, you'd think there would be water for each and every one of us.

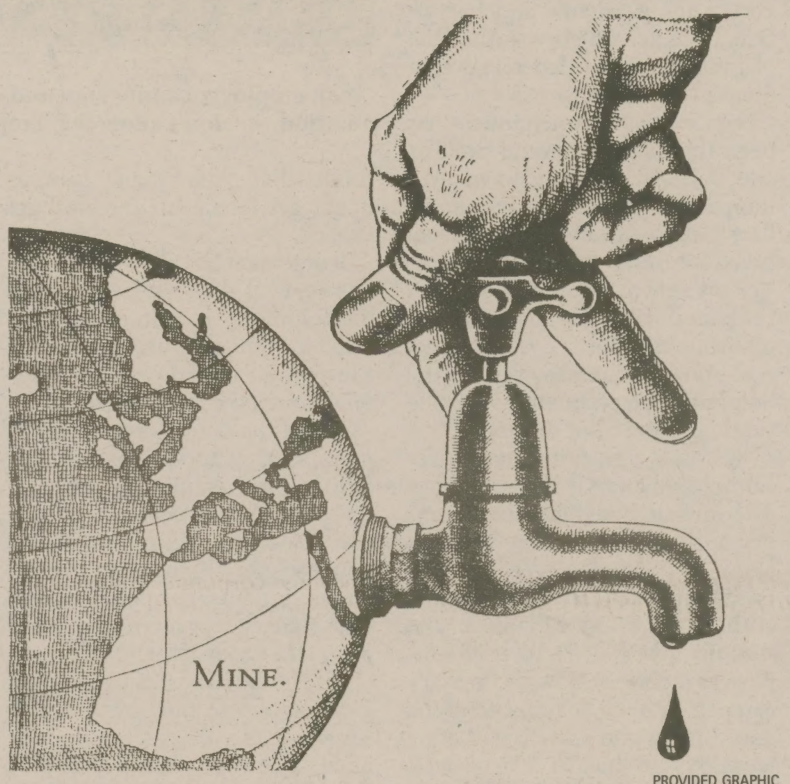
However, the reality isn't quite so crystal clear. Only 2.4 per cent is fresh water. Factor in pollution, legal issues, lack of appropriate technology and privatization, and that figure is further reduced.

Richard "Bricks" Mokolo spoke at Camosun College about the situation in the community of Orange Farm, South Africa. The community's water was privatized without its consent through Johannesburg Water, owned by the French company Suez. This change has come at the people's detriment.

"Privatization is the new apartheid," said Mokolo. "Apartheid separated whites from blacks. Privatization separates the rich from the poor." The South African community was told that privatization would help them to conserve water and gain employment.

However, Orange Farm inhabitants were forced to pre-pay through water meters while economically stable communities didn't have to face these same conditions, despite their excessive water usage. The inability of the Orange Farm people to afford and hence to access such a vital resource motivated Mokolo to form the Orange Farm Water Crisis Committee and push free water as a priority in the government agenda.

The situation at Orange Farm isn't isolated. The story is the same throughout the developing world. People end up resorting to theft and long distance travel to get water from unsafe sources. For South Africa, the latter has led to fatal incidents of cholera outbreaks in provinces such as KwaZulu Natal.



PROVIDED GRAPHIC

This globally recurring dilemma has caused people to ask: Why are governments allowing privatization when their own people can't afford it?

The reasons aren't so simple. Kelly Busch, a UVic graduate holding an MA in interdisciplinary studies and a member of the Council of Canadians, says that multinational companies have the resources to invest in infrastructure that governments may not have.

"[Also], multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and other regional banks often make loans that are conditional to the markets of developing countries being opened up to competition," he said. This means that privatization is made as a stipulation for loans.

The results are that in poor, rural areas, people are forced to choose between paying for water or other necessities such as education, medical care and food. This method of action is neither desirable nor economically sustainable.

Multinational corporations, in their quest for short-term profit, are "[rethinking] the wisdom of privatizing water within developing countries," he said.

"Perhaps the best known example is the Bechtel Corporation in Bolivia which was forced to withdraw in spite of the fact they had the support of the national government," said Busch.

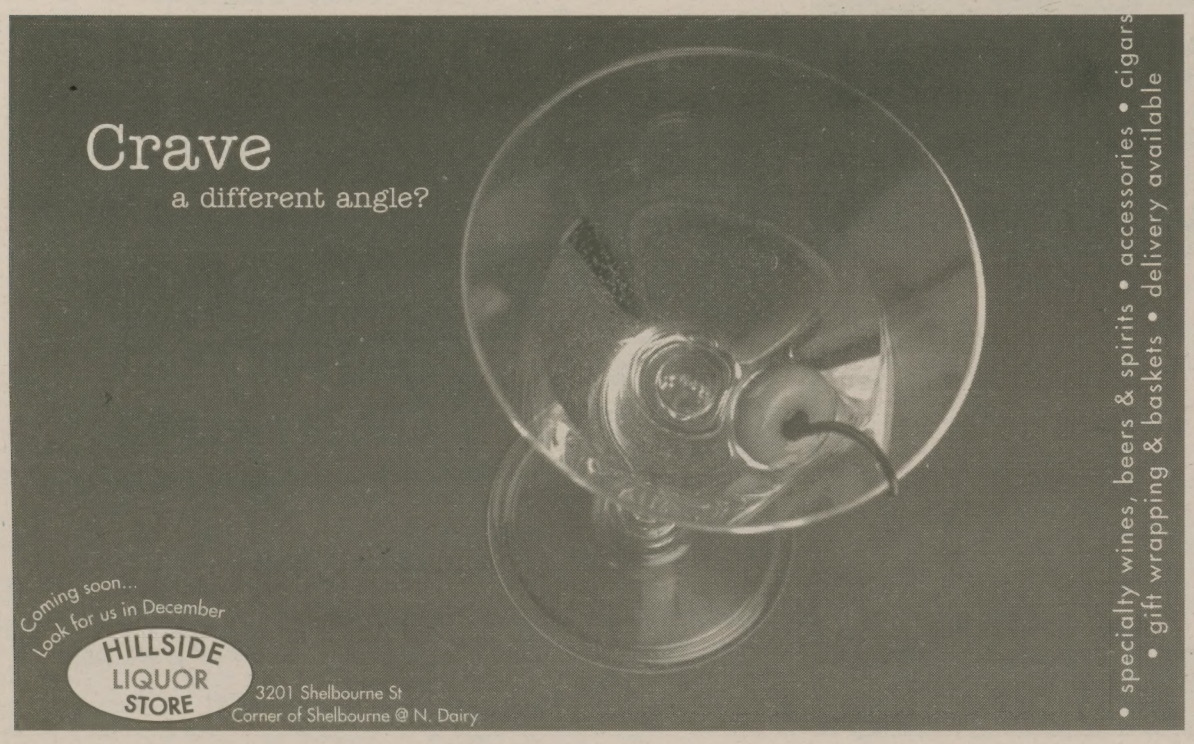
The consumers that can't afford the water and the fierce public opposition, such as that organized by Bricks, spells a loss of profit—forcing companies to turn elsewhere.

As these trends in developed countries increase, Canadians must ask how they will be affected.

According to Busch, the benefits of privatization are that multinationals are can "make large cash infusions to upgrade infrastructure that governments are unwilling to make." This could present the potential for efforts around environmental sustainability. However, these concerns take a back seat to profit, meaning water resources might be jeopardized.

Busch also points out that disadvantages include a loss of sovereign control over the resource and increased costs in the long term.

Once water is privatized, it becomes a tradable good. In Canada, agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement encourage this and allow for companies to demand compensation should government limit water extraction and trade. This means that a company in Canada has the freedom to trade off as much water as it wants, often to other countries.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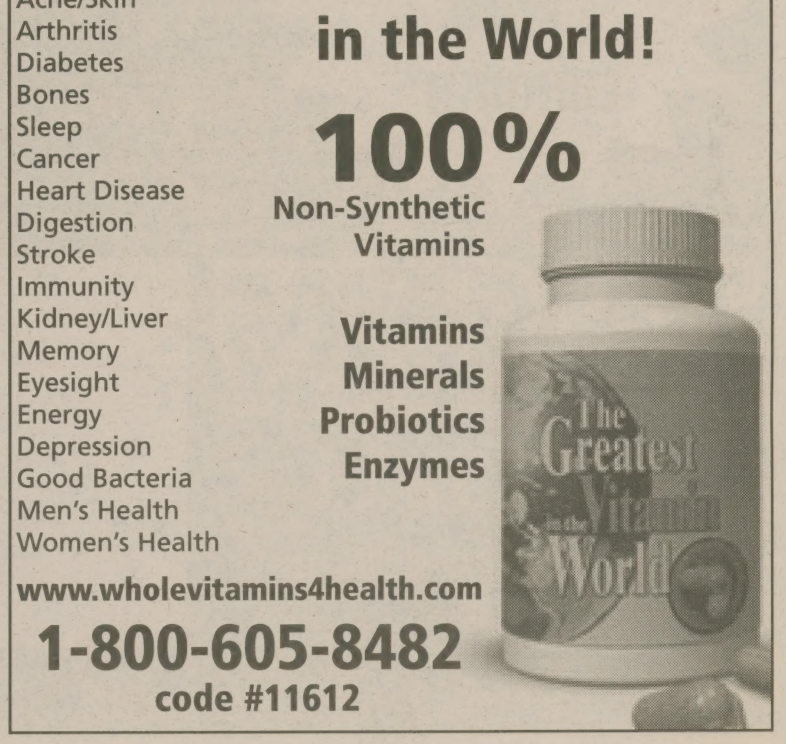


U.S. court suspends campus recruiting law

Harvard law school reinstates ban on military recruiters; dissenting judge argues ruling will hurt military justice

by Robert Heberle, *the Hoya*

WASHINGTON (CUP) — Colleges and universities in the United States may bar military recruiters from their campuses without risking the loss of federal funds after an appellate court struck down a federal law that required post-secondary institutions to provide access to military recruiters Nov. 29.

An appeals court in Philadelphia barred the government from enforcing the Solomon Amendment, a 1995 federal law that threatens the loss of federal funding to any university that does not allow military recruiters the same access to students as corporate recruiters.

A more strict interpretation of the Solomon Amendment by the Department of Defence in 2002 prodded many schools to admit military recruiters, who had been barred because of the armed forces' ban on openly lesbian and gay individuals serving in the military.

The reinterpretation also provoked a series of lawsuits nationwide, led primarily by law schools. A coalition of law schools and faculty, which received the support of numerous Georgetown University professors in Washington, D.C., brought the suit that led to the court decision.

The court ruled 2–1 the Solomon Amendment violated universities' First Amendment rights of free expression and association. Its decision relied heavily on the 2000 ruling by the Supreme Court declaring the Boy Scouts had a constitutional right to exclude gay persons.

University spokesperson Laura Cavender said Georgetown's administration has not yet decided what, if any, actions to take with regard to military recruiters' access to the main campus and Law Center.

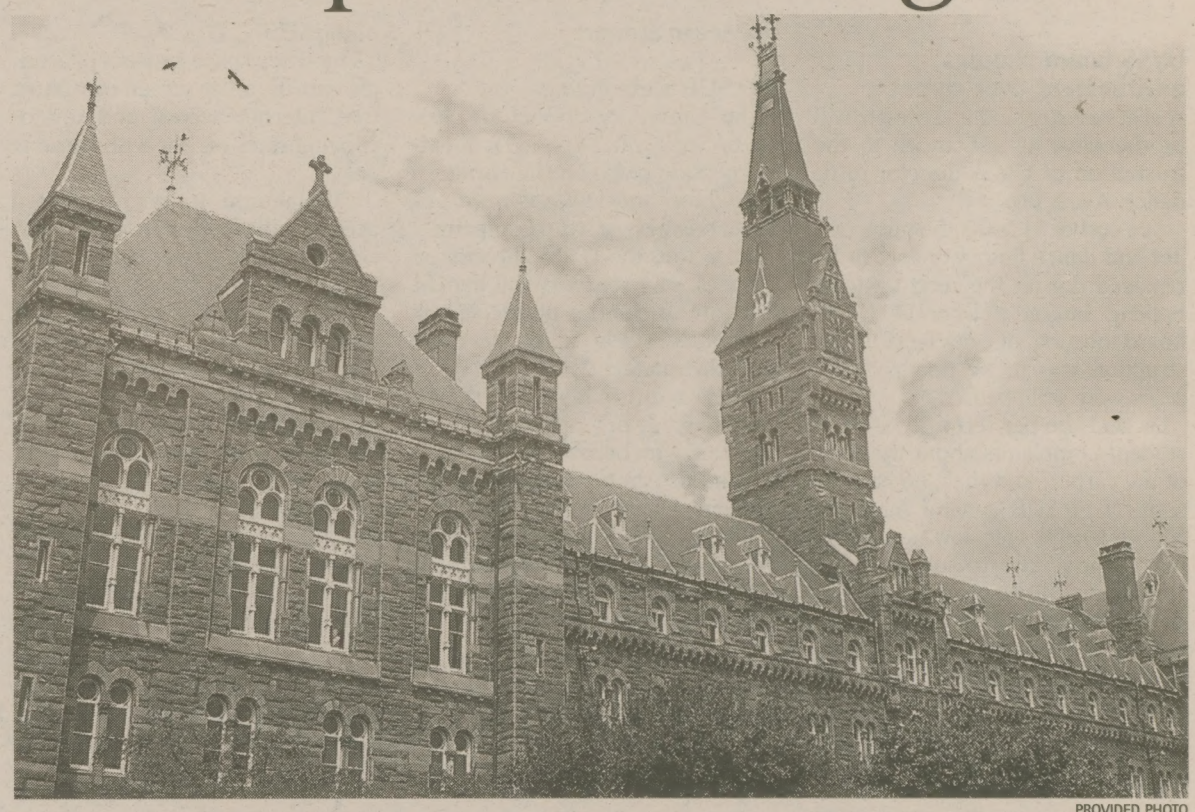
As a member of the American Association of Law Schools, the Law Center has a non-discrimination policy that forbids it from hosting recruiters from organizations that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Many law faculty members have argued this non-discrimination policy conflicts with the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy regarding lesbian and gay personnel.

Approximately 20 law schools chose to participate anonymously in the lawsuit. Georgetown never disclosed its involvement in the lawsuit. One Georgetown faculty member sits on the board of the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights, which was the lead plaintiff against the federal government in the lawsuit.

The Solomon Amendment has been the focus of several protests and debates at Georgetown over the past two years, and numerous Law Center faculty members had called for the law to be repealed.

Georgetown law professor Chai Feldblum, who has been at the forefront of efforts by a national coalition of lawsuits to overturn the Solomon Amendment, said she supported the court's ruling.

"We have a rule: if an employer cannot sign and say that it will not discriminate based on race or gender or sexual orientation, we don't allow that employer to recruit," Feldblum said during an appearance Nov. 30 on MSNBC's *The Abrams Report*. "We treat all employers the same. Now the military came in with the heavy hand of the government and said, 'If you don't let us recruit, then all of the federal funds that your main campus might get for health care will get yanked.'"



PROVIDED PHOTO

"If an employer cannot sign and say that it will not discriminate based on race or gender or sexual orientation, we don't allow that employer to recruit," said aUniversity of Georgetown law professor.

Georgetown has allowed military recruiters at the Law Center since the Solomon Amendment was enacted in 1995, but they maintained a low profile until the stricter interpretation of the law was issued.

One of the nation's most prominent law schools has already changed its recruiting policies in response to the decision. Harvard law school dean Elena Kagan announced Nov. 30 the school would return to its former policy of barring military recruiters from campus in the wake of the ruling.

"I am gratified by this result, and I look forward to the time when all law students will have the opportunity to pursue any legal career they desire," Kagan said in a statement.

Bill McCoy, assistant director of student organizations and LGBTQ community resources at Georgetown, said he hopes the court's decision will motivate the military to re-evaluate its policies concerning lesbians and gay men.

"Perhaps if the military takes this decision to reflect on its current practices and changes its policies, it will open the door for the queer population here to expand their vocational prospects without having to closet themselves," McCoy said. "In terms of whether the military will re-evaluate its current policies, I am not sure but I do hope so."

Pentagon officials have voiced serious concerns about efforts to block the Solomon Amendment in the past. Military advocates have argued that recruiters' access to law school campuses is crucial if the armed forces are to maintain an active and fair court system.

Judge Ruggero J. Aldisert expressed many of the same concerns in his dissent from the two-judge majority in the ruling.

"If military recruiters are denied the ability to reach students on the same terms as other employers, damage to military recruiting is not simply probable but inevitable," Aldisert said. "What disturbs me personally and as a judge is that the law schools seem to approach this question as an academic exercise, a question on a constitutional law examination or a moot court topic, with no thought of the effect of their action on the supply of military lawyers and military judges."

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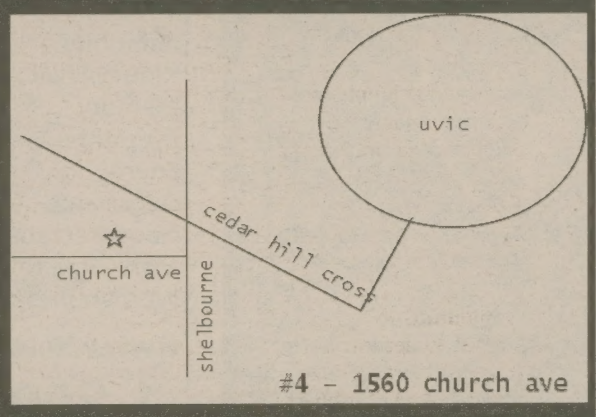

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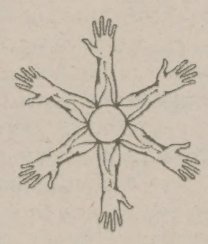

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GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Look, just go away alright? I'm nowhere near ready yet..."

LETTERS

Campbell sneaks on to campus

I see that Gordon Campbell was sneaked onto the UVic campus for a secret meeting to open up the new Island Medical Building at the beginning of December.

This premier is so despised on campus that his visit was announced the same morning and was a "special invite only" event. Campbell is such a coward that he has to sneak around our university like the common convicted criminal that he is.

There's no doubt that administration and BOG officials, (most of whom are directly appointed by Campbell) took pains to sanitize the premier's visit to UVic and to prevent him any embarrassment from contact with students.

In order to set back the medical building behind an acre of lawn, the university sneaked in on Dec. 27, 2003, when all students were away on holiday, and mowed down half of the Cunningham Forest last year.

Ingmar Lee

Please: try a rake

Congratulations to the UVic grounds crew for winning their annual battle against leafy debris.

Each fall this presumably highly paid, and obviously highly skilled, group of individuals rid our campus of uninvited fallen leaves. It's comforting to know that while we enjoy lecture after fascinating lecture, this tight-knit crew battles the annual onslaught with the latest in leaf removal technology. Watch the sharp lines of the "Leaf-O-Vac," pulled zamboni-style around the campus lawns. This high-speed leaf removal technology takes a round out of stubborn leaf litter, repeatedly driven over the same patch of turf to scrape up every leafy straggler.

Another piece of advanced technology is UVic's rendition of the Snowbirds: a Gaitor mini-utility vehicle in synchronous motion with a tripod of baby leaf picker-upper trailers. This team's clatter is heard in the heart of McPherson Library as it runs helter-skelter around the fountain, trying to chase down the few leaves audacious enough to play in the crisp fall breeze.

My personal favourite, however, remains that old stalwart of leaf removal, the two-stroke leaf blower. Usually found hunting guerrilla leaves along the fringes of our inner campus, these little babies are a pleasure to watch in action. As the leafy hordes are driven to their deaths on Ring Road, I often wonder what chance leaves have against the gas-guzzling power of the latest Suzuki Easy-Blower?

Don't get me wrong, the battle against this leafy entourage needs to be won, but next year, when winter raises the leaf alert index from green to red, UVic should rethink its ground crew's tools of the trade. I doubt I'm alone when I ask what happened to the age-old technique of raking. Turf these belching 2-stroke leaf blowers and joy-ride toys. Resort to more effective and environmentally sound techniques of leaf removal. Next fall, when the first leaves die, perhaps reign in the troops and wait for the leaves to build up first. I'd rather brush through the decayed fruits of summer than find myself in the tracks of an oncoming "Leaf-O-Vac."

Conor Mac

He wasn't even from Greece

In regards to the article "Was Alexander Gay?" (Dec. 2, *the Martlet*) I'd just like to point out something that should interest those Greek lawyers: Alexander was not Greek, he was Macedonian. He was born and raised in a Macedonian culture, looked down upon by the Greeks as barbarians from the north.

Their culture was undeniably influenced by the Greeks, but in ways largely similar to our American neighbours to the south. We wouldn't call ourselves Americans, would we? And how would we like to be called American thousands of years in the future? I'm sure that the Macedonians of today don't really enjoy having their main cultural hero being claimed by some other southern state. It's unfortunate that the movie didn't portray this properly either.

Garrett McNeill

Editorial

The real cost of a disaster

"Figures floated across his memory, and he recalled that some 30 or so great plagues known to history had accounted for nearly 100 million deaths. But what are 100 million deaths? When one has served in a war, one hardly knows what a dead man is, after a while . . . Ten thousand dead made about five times the audience at a biggish cinema. Yes, that was how it should be done. You should collect the people at the exits of five picture houses, you should lead them to a city square and make them die in heaps, if you wanted to get a clear notion of what it means."

In Albert Camus' *The Plague*, Dr. Bernard Rieux prepares himself for the horrors of the plague descending upon his French city of Oran, Algeria. In much the same way, television viewers across the globe try to make sense of the devastation in Southern Asia: an estimated 155,000 deaths at the time this article goes to print.

Unfortunately, the true suffering far exceeds the grimness of this figure. Likewise, foreign aid and compassion cannot be measured by dollars alone. However, the survivors of this tragedy need foreign money for medicine, food and water more than they need symbolic gestures. Therefore, like Dr. Rieux, we must consider the numbers carefully.

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children." - Dwight Eisenhower

To be fair, the leadership of the United States often receives a disproportionate amount of blame for the troubles of the world. At other times, it receives far less than it deserves. To try and prevent another 9/11, an atrocity that killed close to 3,000 innocent Americans, and to make an example out of a rogue state, George W. Bush has pumped nearly $200 billion into Operation Iraqi Freedom. In comparison, George W., *Time* magazine's Man of the Year, has pledged $350 million, or 0.175 per cent of the previous amount, to help relieve a disaster that has claimed 155,000 lives.

Globally, the news is not much better. Although the outpouring of support is unprecedented, and should continue in earnest, the world total of $2 billion is relatively small. Comparatively, it's only two-thirds of the gross box office for the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy (before DVD sales).

As in *The Plague*, slow reaction and a lack of planning led to the severity of the catastrophe. The United States, which can strike any part of the globe in a matter of hours from numerous overseas military bases, did not reach frantic survivors with aid helicopters for six days. Paul Martin, the prime minister of the largest Sri Lankan population outside of Sri Lanka, chose to remain in Morocco for seven days. And for all of the world's high technology, cell phones and email, the most effective early warning occurred on the island of Simeulue where memories of a 1907 tsunami led inhabitants to higher ground at the first sign of trouble.

This conspicuous lack of planning, combined with slow reaction time, and exacerbated by a populace that is willing to spend more money on Middle Earth than South Asia, has led to the biggest "natural" disaster in modern times. Like Dr. Rieux, we are now left to contemplate the number of dead. Unfortunately, these numbers cannot be collected from the exits of five picture houses.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

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Letters must be 200 words maximum.
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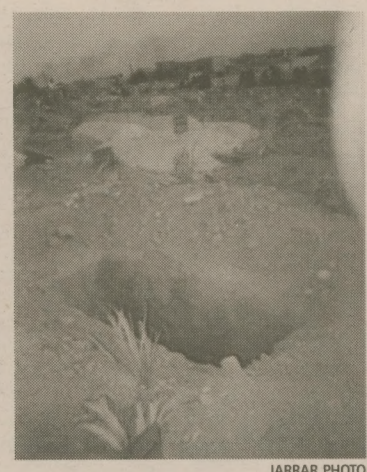
A soldier reads to local children who are eager to learn.



JARRAR PHOTO

Iraqi civilians killed by U.S. bombardment are buried in a temporary graveyard.

PROVIDED PHOTO

A local man bikes past an oil lake.

Getting the real story from Iraq

by Amber Minnings

JARRAR PHOTO

Cars line up bumper to bumper for fuel.

JARRAR PHOTO

Debris remains after a building exploded.

"Before the war, you knew where the bullet [would] come from: the national dictatorship government. Now, you should expect it to come from thieves, resistance, Iraqi police, U.S. forces, other . . . occupying forces, or your gun if you forgot to put it on safe mode."

Raed Jarrar is an Iraqi citizen living in Baghdad with his family. He is working on a thesis about the role of the local community in post-war reconstruction and is director and key organizer in several reconstruction and humanitarian efforts. Life in Iraq is far from paradise, which is exactly why the Jarrar family, including brothers Khalid and Majed, is working to make things better. By using their weblogs (a.k.a. "blogs"), they can advertise their humanitarian campaign and highlight the struggles of daily life in Iraq.

Blogs have become very popular amongst Iraqis wanting to tell their side of the story, a side not often told by mainstream media, and to report on life in their home country.

"The situation seems to be deteriorating daily," writes Riverbend, a blogger living in Baghdad, on her site Baghdad Burning. "The situation is really bad. Many areas have turned into mini-war zones—A'miriyah, A'adhamiyah, Ghazaliyah and Haifa to name a few. The rest of us just get our usual dose of daily explosions and gunfire."

Amid the violence, Iraqi civilians do their best to function with limited electricity and fuel.

Power is in short supply in the capital with most areas getting an average of four to six hours of electricity a day. Some days there is no power. Communication is also difficult, with phone lines and Internet frequently down. The households that can afford it run on generators, but many are left in the dark.

Electricity is used as a method of punishment, writes Majed. "During clashes in Sadr-city in Baghdad, the whole district would have the electricity cut off until fighters would surrender. [The] same thing happened in Fallujah and in Najaf."

The city is also facing a fuel crisis. "People have to wait in line over night now to fill up the car," writes Riverbend. "Don't get me wrong—the governmental people have gasoline . . . the Americans have gasoline. The militias have gasoline. It's the people who don't have it."

Cooking gas has also become a problem. The cost of gas cylinders has greatly increased, and even then "you risk getting one that might explode in the kitchen or be full of water."

"People are wondering how America and [Iraq's interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi] are going to implement democracy in all of this chaos when they can't seem to get the gasoline flowing in a country that virtually swims in oil."

To cope with the shortages people come up with alternatives. According to Majed, by mixing medical alcohol and fat, one can create a substance that works as an alternative fuel for cars. Otherwise, people must simply go without.

Worst result of occupation

Because people were being kidnapped from inside their own homes, Khalid decided to buy a gun. But before going out in search of a weapon, he had to take precautions such as wearing certain clothes and leaving his ID at home so that if he were kidnapped off the street, his family would be safe from the abductors.

This lack of security is the worst result of the occupation, writes Majed. Before the war, crime rates were lower "probably because of the fear of the consequences." If a person robbed a store, for example, they could have their right [hand] cut off. This is "a law in Islam [that] was recognized in the Iraqi constitution." People also wanted to avoid going to jail as "no one [wanted] to go to Saddam's prisons."

This fear doesn't exist now.

Before the invasion, "I could leave my car engine on and the keys in the car and go to the grocery store for 15 minutes and get back to my car without even thinking that someone might steal it. Now I can't even drive a car in [the] streets, [because] someone might stop me with a machine gun, drag me out of the car and take it, if not kidnap me or kill me inside it," writes Majed.

In an attempt to provide security, random checkpoints and roadblocks are set up along the main roads of the city. "Checkpoints usually consist of six to eight policemen with guns and two cars," he writes. "Nothing to stand [up] against a car with four insurgents with medium machine guns and couple of grenades."

These checkpoints are almost completely useless as they are obvious and create traffic jams that can stretch for kilometres. For most people the delays are irritating and inconvenient, and for insurgents the resulting lineup provides a chance to take a side road and avoid the checks.

A playground for factions

"There are many challenges Iraqis have to face now," writes Salam Pax, another Iraqi blogger. "One of the more serious challenges is the fact that Iraq has become a sort of an open playground for many political and religious factions who are using Iraq as a fighting ground."

Raed breaks the fighters into three groups: First, there are "religious fundamentalists who believe it is their duty to fight the 'crusaders'"; second are what "remains of the Iraqi National Government and National Army, fighting because they lost their positions and the . . . U.S. administration didn't give them any other outlet"; and third are the "people that hate the occupation. This is the biggest group now."

Some view the actions of the resistance as legitimate in fighting against the foreign occupier even if they harbour no ill will towards the troops as individuals or against the American people. Others strongly support the Americans or remain neutral. However all blogs scorn the sickening actions of the "terrorists," and the vast majority of bloggers are not supportive of religious leader Muqtada Al Sadr and his followers.

"You have to be careful what you say about [Al Sadr]" writes Salam. "Their hands reach everywhere, and you don't want to be on their shit list. Everybody, even the [governing council], is very careful how they formulate their sentences and how they describe [Al Sadr's] militias. They are thugs, thugs, thugs. There you have it."

Despite this response, "Sadrism," writes Raed, "is becoming the new phenomenon." Al Sadr is a popular leader with millions of followers, as opposed to al Qaeda-connected leader Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, who is a "personality that no one knows."

"Al Sadr and his supporters are Iraqis. They are the poor repressed Iraqis that were devastated for decades, the same people to whom the Bush administration propaganda made promises of a better life after occupation."

According to Raed, "There [are] different rates of sympathy with the resistance depending on the geographical area and the personal beliefs of the individuals, but I can say that the sympathy to the resistance is increasing."

Even Allawi has acknowledged the strength of the insurgency, citing the dismantling of Iraq's security forces after the invasion as contributing to its strength.

"We are facing an enemy heavily supported, even in some cases, with superior weapons," he said last month.

Another part of the problem is that some people feel that joining the resistance is their only viable option.

One of Majed's classmates, whom he sees as a stereotype of those that join the resistance, dropped out of high school to join the fighters. Two of his uncles were killed by the Americans, and his father had not received his salary from his job with the government for the past two months. He started to feel that he was a burden to his family, who needed another source of income. So, he decided to "stop studying and either start working as a construction worker (which makes him earn one dollar a day), or [join] the resistance and [share] the booty after the attacks on U.S. convoys, or sometimes receive donations from individuals who support them."

Majed goes on to say, "I know many others who had a potentially bright future: college students and new graduates, whose family or [loved] ones [were] killed by

READ THE BLOG

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JARRAR PHOTO

An explosion occurs in Harthiya.

JARRAR PHOTO

Baghdad is covered in a blanket of dust.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Coalition forces helped to build this nursery school.

Tired of mainstream media's failings, Iraqis are using blogs to tell their story

PROVIDED PHOTO

A soldier shares a book with some youths.

JARRAR PHOTO

Iraqi labourers work to get drinking water.

the Americans. . . . Life became [so] hard [for] them that they lost hope."

Despite the growing number of insurgents, Salaam points out that "the moderates are always the majority essentially, but it is usually an unarmed and peaceful majority, so they are naturally weaker and easy prey for the armed and violent minority."

Hospitals in need

As in any conflict, hospitals have been particularly hard hit by the violence.

There is a severe shortage of medical supplies, with many hospitals relying on the supplies that were left in medical stores since the former government's time. There is no shortage of trained medical staff, writes Majed, but they have to make do through frequent disruptions in electricity and sometimes water shortages.

Conditions in some hospitals are worse than others.

"My friend . . . went to the hospital of Fallujah," writes Khalid, "and found an unspeakable situation. The hospital is run by volunteers, they lack medicine and instruments, dead bodies are crowded to the point they don't know what to do with [them], injured people numbers are way over the hospital capacity, and the few ambulance cars they had, most of them were attacked by the occupation forces and destroyed. My friend told me that in the hospital, they have to clean the ground every now and then to allow people to walk through the blood. . . . Medical equipment [is] urgently needed. They used to have some . . . equipment and machines, but they were in the ambulance cars and were destroyed with them."

Although the Jarrars are involved in other projects and all are busy students, they have taken the initiative to start a humanitarian campaign that aims to get desperately needed supplies to hospitals and clinics within the country.

Since the Jarrars are volunteers, they are able to deliver the supplies directly to the affected hospitals and avoid the costly, bureaucratic methods of large non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The family is, however, working under the supervision of the French NGO, Premiere Urgence, to add legitimacy to its campaign.

In late November, family friends donated the first batch of supplies to a clinic in Garma after they were turned away from Fallujah. Hundreds of thousands of refugees from Fallujah have moved into nearby towns including Garma, according to the United Nations.

Grassroots organizations are perhaps doing the most effective work in Iraq, addressing the most pressing issues in the community and allowing Iraqis to work and rebuild their own country.

"Iraq has enough national income, enough local materials, enough human resources and experience to rebuild itself," writes Raed. "We should give [Iraqis] the right [to] spend their money on their priorities instead of imposing foreign organizations [that spend] thousands and millions for projects that are either unnecessary or can be implemented with less costs."

The Campaign for Innocent Victims on Conflict (CIVIC) is one of these grassroots organizations. The project was created by a young American woman named Marla Ruzicka as a way to give a more personal account about the cost of war. To do this, CIVIC conducted a survey and collected detailed information about all of the unarmed people who were killed or injured during the invasion.

Raed was the country director putting the plan into operation, designing surveys and training about 175 volunteers. The first report was taken to United States Senator Patrick Leahy and was used not only to raise awareness about the human cost of war but also to lobby the American government to provide assistance to innocent victims of military operations.

Raed is also the founder of Emaar, an Iraqi organization that oversees reconstruction projects. The projects build or repair the infrastructure of a given neighbourhood using labourers from that neighbourhood. Community members do all of the work themselves while Emaar volunteer teams oversee the projects. "The idea," writes Raed, "was [to rebuild] Iraq by depending on Iraqis. Building the built environment by rebuilding civil society."

Meanwhile, the interim government is "focusing on repairing what terrorist attacks destroy," such as oil pipelines and oil refineries, writes Majed. "Roads, schools, houses, electricity poles and exchangers, sewage . . . and water pipelines" are left for international and Iraqi organizations to repair. These groups have done a lot of work, but "it is negligible [compared] to how much needs to be done."

Imported democracy

Iraqis are polarized when it comes to the election scheduled for Jan. 30, 2005. Although many are hopeful that the election will usher in a new era for the country, many others question its legitimacy.

"Fake elections are so . . . destructive," writes Raed. "The real elections should happen in a country with stable conditions, but this . . . imported democracy of the Bush administration . . . can't go beyond the small, dirty ballot boxes."

There are fears elections may be undermined by Sunni Muslims, who are threatening to boycott the vote. However, Shiite Muslims make up about 60 per cent of the population, and most support the electoral process.

Intimidation aimed at voters and election workers could also hurt preparations and significantly reduce voter turnout. With the threat of terror attacks on voting centres and confusion over who will be providing security for voters, many Iraqis are afraid of even going to the polls.

"Most people I've talked to aren't going to go to the elections," writes Riverbend. "It's simply too dangerous and there's a sense that nothing is going to be achieved anyway."

Recently, election workers have been the targets of those hoping to disrupt the elections. Three Iraqi officials who were organizing the vote were gunned down in December, highlighting the danger faced by anyone seen to be helping or co-operating with the Americans or the interim government.

Despite these concerns, many Iraqis are confident in the integrity of the election.

"People are waiting for the elections," writes Salam. "In this voting they will put an end to the terrorist attacks in Iraq and start in curing . . . the wounded Iraq."

Allawi and the interim government are widely seen as puppets for the Americans. "He is called the 'dog of occupation,'" writes Raed.

Likewise, there are many people who are hostile towards the Bush administration.

"The U.S. administration is not the angel we were waiting for," writes Majed. "Ammar, a person who I met after the war, said, 'Those Americans will not succeed unless they ruled like Saddam. We Iraqis are easily inflamed and nothing can rule us except fire.' Now, actually, there is no Ammar, but there are hundreds of 'Ammars' I meet all the time: taxi drivers, grocers, neighbourhood guards, unemployed people . . . whether they liked or not, and whether you liked or not, they know that one fact is: life under Saddam was much easier, period.

"We live in a country that has been 'liberated,' but surprisingly, it's still missing its freedom of expression, freedom of [press]. . . . We live in a country that has a ministry for human rights but no rights for humans. We barely are able to live."

Despite these struggles, people have hope for a better future.

"Saddam is gone, thanks to you," writes Salam in a message to America. "Was it worth it? Be assured it was. We all know that it got to a point where we would have never been rid of Saddam without foreign intervention. I just wish it would have been a bit better planned. Does this mean that I will be wearing a "I [heart] Bush" t-shirt? No, because I don't believe there is any altruism in politics, and the way he sees the world scares me.

"What I do really and sincerely hope for is [when] soldiers and U.S. civilians here feel safe walking in the streets without those hard and heavy flak jackets so that we can sit and talk about these things in a Karrada Street tea shop."

S FOR YOURSELF

pot.com/ || **Majed Jarrar** – Me Vs. Myself http://me-vs-myself.blogspot.com/ || **Salam Pax** – Where is Raed? http://dear_raed.blogspot.com
/messopotamian.blogspot.com/ || Sarmad Zangna – Road of a Nation http://www.roadofanation.com/blog/

A pleasure cruise with Bill Murray

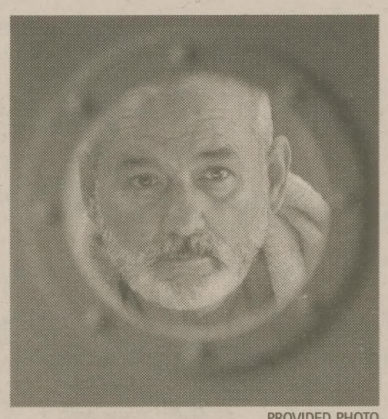
by Darrell Andersen

Bill Murray is back—as Steve Zissou—and this time he's on a mission.

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou stars a quirky band of oceanographers/documentary filmmakers whose glory days are quickly fading into memory. The team's documentary series, *The Life Aquatic*, is poorly produced, roughly cut together and very low budget, yet it has had a loyal fan-following throughout the years. Directed by Wes Anderson, the film chronicles Team Zissou's latest and possibly final mission as they set out to find and destroy the dreaded Jaguar Shark, which may or may not exist and which Steve claims ate his closest friend and right-hand man, Esteban. The brains of the operation , Esteban says Steve is . . . the Zissou.

The Life Aquatic is hashed together loose and rough in some places, much like the fake documentary it chronicles. But it still has that distinct Anderson feel to it for those familiar with *Bottle Rocket, Rushmore* or *The Royal Tenenbaums*.

It may seem somewhat jumpy, but it works well, allows for an amount of unpredictability and ends up as a fabulously well-executed tale of adventure. Bill Murray is a favourite of mine, but anyone could agree after seeing him in this film that he deserves heaps of praise, if only to keep him interested in working on films like *The Life Aquatic* and *Lost in Translation*. The character Steve Zissou was actually written specifically for him, and Murray is perfect as the self-absorbed, egotistical yet likable captain.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Bill Murray deserves praise for his role in *The Life Aquatic*.

As Steve mourns the loss of Esteban, he is confronted by Ned Plimpton, played by an unusually quiet and subdued Owen Wilson, whose on-and-off Kentucky accent can be a bit distracting. They discover that Ned is probably Steve's son and, as a publicity stunt, Steve asks Ned to join Team Zissou, even though he confesses that he hates fathers and never wanted to be one.

Another new temporary member of the crew—in addition to the sailors, dolphins, bond company stooge and abused college interns—is journalist Jane Winslett-Richardson, played by Cate Blanchett. She's writing a cover story on the expedition and has her pen focused on rebuking the validity of Steve's mission, though she also claims to have been a fan since childhood.

The ensemble cast features some Anderson regulars such as Anjelica Huston as wife Eleanor Zissou. But the most enjoyable character is the hilarious Willem Dafoe, playing a rare comedic role as engineer Klaus Daimler. Klaus envisions himself as Steve's son and is bitter at the inclusion of Ned in the closely knit team, who all sport matching red caps and pajamas.

Team Zissou's ship is the *Belafonte*, which is on the verge of breaking down at any moment and regularly requires a kick to get it going. The set used as the interior of the *Belafonte* is a full-sized crosssection of the ship, which allowed Anderson to show almost every nook in the bowels of the ship during one long uncut shot. For some special effects, stop-motion animation is used instead of computer graphics, which makes the invented sea creatures that Steve discovers more surreal and fantastic. The cartoon-like, unrealistic quality of the film, its set pieces and locations, give it character and style, but the crazy world that Steve inhabits is still not enough to hide his sadness.

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou is an engaging story of imagination about a group of eccentric characters on a ridiculous mission. Twists and turns abound, but at the story's heart is the father-son relationship between Steve and Ned, and Steve's struggle to accept the death of a friend.

Maiden's early years

Iron Maiden
The Early Days (DVD)
EMI

by Sacha Narine

Even for fans of Iron Maiden, watching Steve Harris pontificate on the failure of his pre-Maiden bands, Gypsy's Kiss and Smiler, kind of sucks. But then the real band comes together, singers fade in and out, and finally . . . Bruce Dickinson, Maiden's signature vocalist since 1981, enters the fold. But this DVD is called *The Early Days*, and it lives up to the name. The second disc houses the titular 90-minute documentary (with the aforementioned suckage), a 20-minute TV documentary on the band and a 45-minute video of an early Maiden show. Disc two is solely for Maiden junkies. The material is edited well enough, and *The Early Days* documentary moves at a good pace, but it's just not terribly interesting.

Thanks goodness for disc one, filled with two hours of concert footage from three shows. The first is an early show with Paul Di'Anno on vocals. The audio is clean, but the video quality could be better. The second is arguably the best part of this two-disc set: a 1982 show at London's Hammersmith Odeon theatre. The sound is crisp and impressive, Dickinson hits all the notes, and Adrian Smith's lascivious guitar-wanking pumps a lot of wattage into your cottage. The third is a rock festival in Dortmund, Germany. The stage antics are a good laugh, the sound is good, but the band isn't quite as tight as they were at the Hammersmith show. Still, the Dortmund stuff is well worth seeing.

For fans of camp and retro-kitsch, or for trendsetters who bleed irony, *The Early Days* is a panacea for that creeping, crawling uncoolness we all fear. Maiden and their followers wear such unspeakably terrible clothing (including red leather pants and thin-strap tank tops) that it must be cool now, in our era of irony.

Maiden's been around for almost 30 years. How disturbing is that? If "Number of the Beast," "Run to the Hills," "Aces High," "Hallowed Be Thy Name," "The Trooper," or any other Iron Maiden classic is among your favourite old-school metal tunes, *The Early Days* is worth a look. And at a suggested price of $19.99, you can bask in the skidliness of Hammersmith and Dortmund for less than the cost of a couple extraneous course packs.

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A night on the town with Moneyshot

by Chris Devauld

There's a lot of untapped party potential in Victoria. When the NHL disappeared, TV became blurry and beer turned stale. Everyone pretended that life could still be fun in the winter.

Yeah, right. Things have been rather dismal for those of us who like to rock. And as we all know, there's only one cure for the winter blues: high-quality metal, punk or rock. (I guess that's actually three cures.)

Thank God for Moneyshot. Moneyshot formed in Victoria during the early months of 1999. They have since gained a reputation as a crowd-pleasing, energetic group of musicians. Band members Tim Rodier, Josh and Jeremy Erickson, and Tyson Yerex have a fairly simple mission: to play for as many people as possible and to make sure that everyone's having a good time. Rodier says a Moneyshot concert offers a perfect escape from the potential boredom and frustration of workaday life. "When people come to our concerts, we want them to forget about their lives. Well, they can bring their lives, but they'll forget them almost immediately." Moneyshot's attitude towards music is flexible. They combine elements of punk, hard rock and a touch of metal. Somehow they mix these genres into one adrenaline-pumped style. When you first see Moneyshot, you might ask yourself, "Should I mosh, dance, chill out with a beer, or jump on stage?" You should do them all, in that order.

On their previous album, *Amped*, Moneyshot created the near-legendary hockey anthem "Blades of Steel." "What was really crazy was that shortly after the song was released, it was played in all the major hockey stadiums around here," says Jeremy Erickson. "I remember going to NHL games and saying, 'Holy shit, that's our song!'" Other hits, such as "A Million Degrees," have helped Moneyshot land interviews on MuchMusic and hype eastern Canadian tours.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Local boys Moneyshot are about more than just money.

Eastern Canada, according to Rodier, is as far east as they can get in four days. "We all have careers, so the band is more of a lifestyle than anything. I'm just happy to be playing music and travelling around with my friends."

Moneyshot is not about money. They are about fun, escape and, of course, partying.

To celebrate the release of their new CD, *Cowboys and Angels*, Moneyshot is hosting a party/concert at Steamers on Jan. 14. If you lived in or around Victoria in 2002, you probably heard of Moneyshot's CD release concert for *Amped*. The concert set a bar attendance record for Victoria. Needless to say, everyone had a good time.

The new disc promises even more thrills. Songs like "Loud" illustrate the band's sharp mix of rock and metal, while "Angel's 6th Story View" is an aggressive combination of every genre that requires a guitar, drums, and distortion. Moneyshot welcomes big crowds. As Tim and Jeremy say, "The bigger the crowd, the bigger the party." What a lifesaver. Hockey might have taken a vacation, but beer and partying are still hanging around.

Truth is stranger than fiction

by Darryl Gunther

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- Set in the Great Depression, Peter Schroedter's non-fiction novel is both the tale of Peter Winters and Ephraim Korts' robbery of the Ashern bank, and an introspective look at the history and people of an Interlake community.

The Last Horse Holdup: The Final Years of the Newhome Gang reveals a dark underbelly of the hardworking pioneers of Newhome, Man., and Peter Winters' struggle to reach beyond the predetermined destiny of the farm community.

Schroedter grew up with the story of Peter Winters and the Newhome Gang, and later pursued the matter as a beat reporter for an Interlake newspaper. The research he gathered and the interviews he conducted with remaining eyewitnesses reveal a story that belongs in *The Sopranos*' New Jersey, not in the small farming community of Newhome.

Peter Winters, the young son of Martin Winters, grew up in Newhome. Winters was a young man with big ideas and the ambition to pursue them. He wanted to see the world beyond his small community. After watching his father try to keep a farm and battle endlessly against an unforgiving environment, he decides to leave the farm, after an argument with his father.

Winters ends up working with Henry, a small-time hoodlum. The tasks Winters performs for Henry, along with Ephraim Korts, escalate during the story, starting with arson and bootlegging moonshine, and eventually ending up with the robbery of the Ashern bank in December 1934.

Murder and assault are a part of the Newhome Gang's business, and soon it extends to Winnipeg, where an illegal gambling, bootlegging and prostitution net is established.

The conflict with his father drives him to prove his worth, and the ambitious goals he once set become tainted as he sinks further and further into a life of crime.

The harsh, relentless landscape of the Interlake during the 1930s is a character in itself, with the tireless efforts of the pioneers and their desperation to make it through yet another long winter.

The characters Schroedter portrays are accurate, and the trials and consequences they experience are real. Starting and ending in the Manitoba wilderness, this is an unreal story, which just happens to be true.

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Looking inside the eye of a twister

IMAX's *Forces of Nature* falls flat

by Sean Patrick Sullivan

Dr. Josh Wurman sighs and slumps in his chair when asked if he's the inspiration for the movie *Twister*. It's clearly a question he's tired of answering.

"They talked to me briefly," says the real-life tornado chaser, carefully choosing his words. "They consulted. But it was filmed a few months before we started using some of our newer equipment."

Still, much of the new IMAX flick *Forces of Nature* seems based on Wurman. Like Bill Paxton's character, he and a gang of scientists chase tornadoes across the United States' infamous Tornado Alley, hoping to develop technology to create better warning systems.

The idea of working to predict and prepare for natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions is at the heart of *Forces of Nature*, which Wurman was in town last month to promote.

These events get the usual visually pleasing IMAX treatment—clouds of ash from a volcano rise a kilometre into the sky; a Turkish city lies in ruins after an earthquake kills tens of thousands; tornadoes rip up houses and scatter cars across the landscape.

The film, which emphasizes the work of scientists trying to minimize damage from disasters, is especially poignant in the wake of last month's tsunami in Asia, where an effective warning system could have saved tens of thousands of lives.

Beyond the astounding visuals, *Forces of Nature* falls flat and feels too much like a mediocre PBS documentary. The narration, provided by Kevin Bacon, is bland, and the film glosses over its subject matter, trying to tackle too much in just 40 minutes. There are too many sweeping visuals and not nearly enough information on each topic.

Wurman himself, however, makes a fascinating interview subject. A leading researcher in tornadoes, the film shows his team and their sophisticated gear that can get a radar's eye view inside a twister, showing the winds and forces at work within. They're working to solve the mystery of how a tornado is born, with an aim of being able to give better warning to those in its path.

"We're really the only ones who brought in new technology that really revolutionized these studies," he says, adding with a laugh that there's still much to be done. "There's a lot we still don't understand. There's good job security in tornado research."

An average tornado lasts only a few minutes, and most aren't very strong. The ones he cares about can last up to 30 minutes and reach up to 400 km/h.

"No one knew what it was like inside a tornado, so I pushed to develop tools to see inside. We feel like the people who invented the microscope. We just point and see something new," he said.

It's dangerous work—something that *Forces of Nature* does well in illustrating. From the researchers working at the edge of a smoking volcano to one of Wurman's trucks racing towards massive and deadly tornadoes, the film shows the risk scientists take in working to help save lives. In that, the film succeeds, but as a whole, *Forces of Nature* is unfulfilling.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Tornados can reach up to 400km/h.

C'mon's unnecessary rawk-fest

C'mon
Midnight is the Answer
MapleMusic Recordings

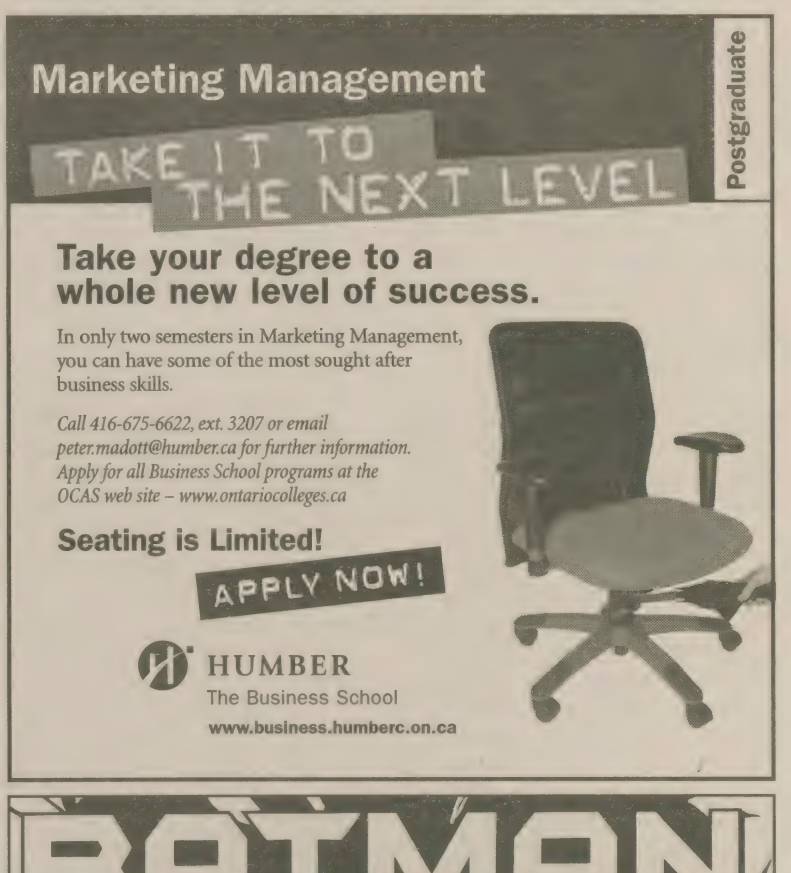
by Sacha Narine

C'mon's debut record, *Midnight is the Answer*, hits you up front with some kind of cheesy faux-retro machismo that I couldn't quite reconcile with the reality of modern music. Where does a band that mixes the sounds of Sloan and AC/DC fit into youth culture? Who asked for this stuff? Who the hell thought anyone wanted it?

C'mon is Ian Blurton on guitar and vocals, Randy Curnew on drums and Katie Lynn Campbell on bass and vocals. Now that that's out of the way, let's take a look at the album's 10 tracks, totalling a stunning 25 minutes of rawk.

You'll have their sound pegged after one song. I listened to all 10 for the purposes of this review, and I'm pretty sure it was just one huge, unnecessary 25-minute rawk-fest. Track four, "Deliver Yr Desire," has a catchy little intro, but as soon as Blurton's voice wheezes into the mix, any enjoyment you were feeling will quickly be replaced by a burning desire to steam-press your skivvies or build an igloo or do anything other than listen to C'mon.

It's Blurton's edgeless voice that sinks this album. C'mon wants edge and innovation, but has only awkwardness and expendability.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Make 'em and break 'em

Arty resolutions for 2005

by Andrea Dupuis and Sacha Narine

The top New Year's resolutions change little from year to year: quit smoking, lose weight, eat better, go to the gym. But every year these resolutions vanish a few weeks into January. Here is a collection of some of the most fail-proof, arty resolutions for 2005.

Find out why Bollywood makes more money than Microsoft.

With ear-stinging song and ravenously awful dance, Bollywood films tell and retell the same tired stories of doomed love and familial oppression. Sure, they're no worse than anything starring Howie Long or Vanilla Ice, but Howie Long and Vanilla Ice are out-of-work failures. Bollywood is making a mint. We deserve to know why.

Lip-synch to stardom with a track called "So Into You . . . Two."

Britney does it. So does BSB. Who cares about Ashlee Simpson? Even Madonna and Aerosmith, hacks who've been around since before they were hacks, gave into the pressure to lip-synch and thereby sound note-perfect, like a freshly pressed studio album. Of course, that's what we're all hoping for when we see live music—an exact replication of the studio sound. Exciting.

Pay more attention to UVic creative writing.

As more than three of you know, UVic has an outstanding writing department. What comes out of said department is a veritable jackpot of stunning creative writing: poetry and prose you can find in books like *Breathing Fire 2* and in UVic's literary journal, *This Side of West*. Also, take a look at UVic's *The Malahat Review* (published seasonally) for more inspiring Canadian writing.

Pick a local band and proclaim them the saviours of (insert genre here).

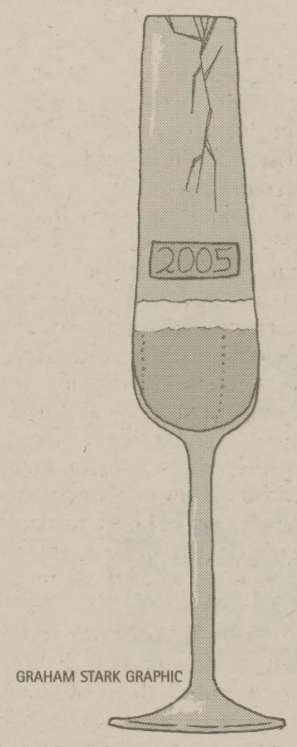
I've seen a few Victoria bands. Some of them were pretty darn good. Some of them weren't. Yet, in order to really be in touch with the music community, in order to truly understand what it means to be an arty nerd, you must talk frequently and casually about your town's "scene" and about who's "about to break [into the mainstream]." It goes like this: "Yeah, The Gandarvhas put out a killer new EP. Have you heard it? No? It's tight. It's totally tight. They're gonna change the scene completely. I just know these guys are gonna break." Every time someone becomes a full-fledged arty nerd, an angel grows a third wing.

Get back into comic books.

If you think comic books are for kids, you're right. But they're not JUST for kids. Remember when *Spawn* was a big deal? Remember when Superman died and four Supermen came back to take his place? Remember when Bane broke Batman's back? Remember when the Green Goblin killed Gwen Stacy? Remember when Glenn Danzig started Verotik, his own comic book company? If you answered no to all of those questions, get down to Johnson Street and buy a nice looking comic book or graphic novel. Your imagination will thank you. (But your wallet might not.)

Become an art expert.

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria has a collection of over 15,000 works and is one of Canada's best galleries. The gallery offers contemporary exhibits throughout the year.. For the small fee of $12, you can wander the beautiful gallery,



GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

which is housed in a 19th-century mansion, for as long as you like.

Listen to more records.

Throw out the CDs and MP3s and get back to the vinyl. There's something magical about listening to an original LP, as the needle drifts across the divots in the record and one hears the nuances of a real recording. With all the over-produced studio music out there, nothing reinvigorates an old song like listening to it on vinyl. Check out Led Belly, Howlin Wolf or any of the other Delta Blues artists.

Make a resolution to not make New Year's resolutions.

Why even bother? They set up unreasonable expectations, and they usually fail. Instead make simple resolutions throughout the year, perhaps one for every month. New Year's resolutions are meant to be broken! So either resolve to not make resolutions or resolve to break them. You know you will.

The Exies not a pleasant listening experience

The Exies
Head for the Door
Virgin

by Sacha Narine

The Exies sound like other bands. You could say they're not anything new—they're just some rock band with heavy guitar, gravelly vocals and hyperbolic lyrics like "I know what it feels like. It burns from the inside. I know what it hurts like. 'Cause I've been wrong a thousand times." You could say they're not doing much for music, and you'd be right.

But fans of modern rock will enjoy The Exies. *Head for the Door* sounds like Puddle of Mudd and Fuel, and the single "Ugly" has its own cute commercial charm. If Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" is money, "Ugly" is Monopoly money—a worthless facsimile, but fun to play with.

Scott Stevens has a satisfying rock-star rasp that makes listening to The Exies less than painful, but not quite pleasant for this reviewer. Others will appreciate the album more, but they won't find anything terribly fresh in its 12 emotive modern rock tracks.

STEVEN MASUCH PHOTO

Tanks held captive behind chain-link fence

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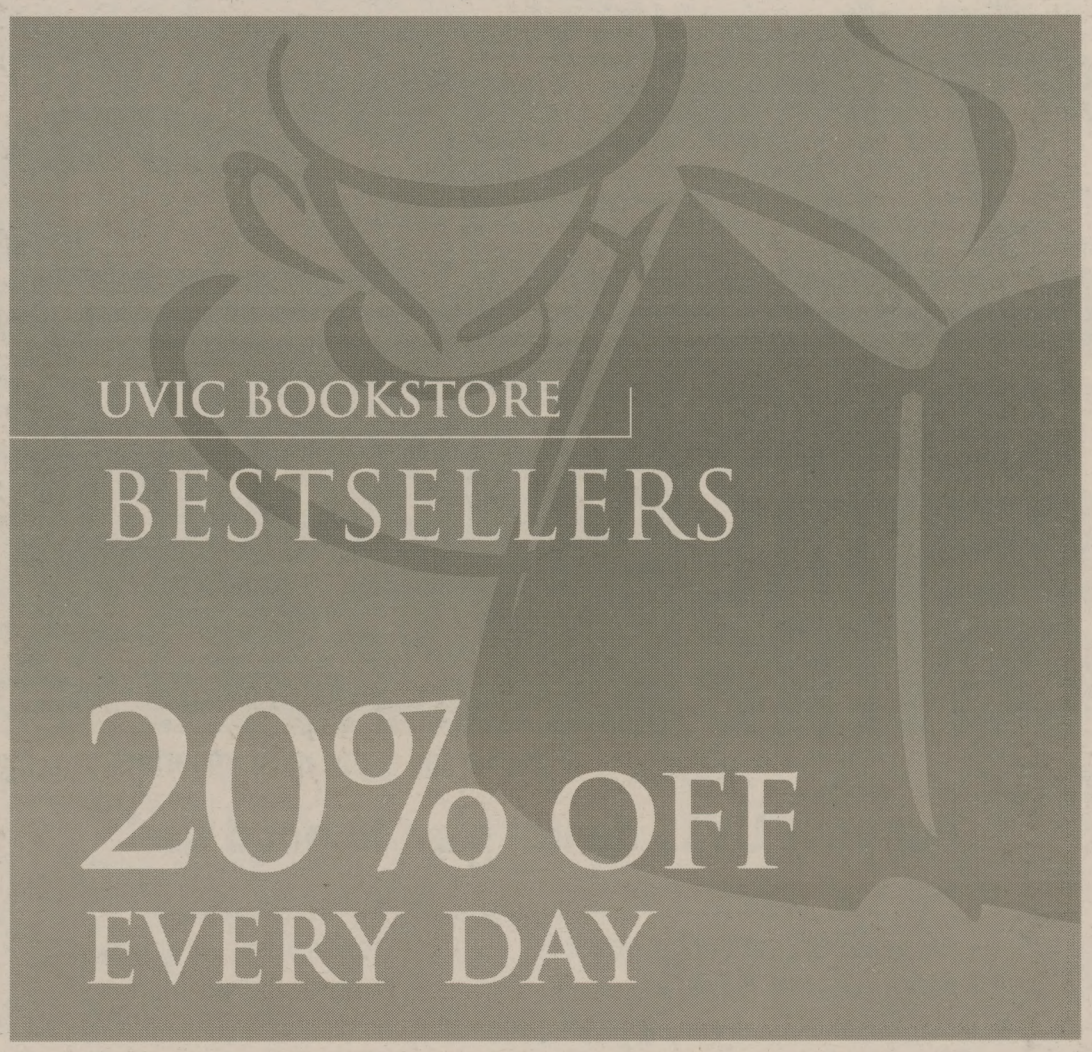

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Salmon Kings rule the ice

by David Karp

With no end in sight to the NHL lockout, the Victoria Salmon Kings are ruling B.C.'s pro hockey scene. The Salmon Kings are an ECHL expansion team and are currently the province's only active pro hockey team.

Formerly the East Coast Hockey League, the ECHL now has teams from all over North America, and it describes itself as "the leading professional developmental league for the American Hockey and National Hockey League." Former players include Olaf Kolzig, Andrew Brunette and Patrick Lalime. New Jersey Devil Scott Gomez is currently playing for his hometown Alaska Aces because of the lockout.

The Salmon Kings have a record of 7–16–3 as of Jan. 3, which puts them in last place in the National Conference. The team has struggled defensively, allowing an average of 3.6 goals per game.

Victoria has also struggled off the ice. The team was supposed to play in the Save On Foods Memorial Centre, but the construction for the Blanshard and Caledonia arena has not been completed. It is unclear when the 7,000-seat complex will be ready, but it does have a Rod Stewart concert booked for March 26.

In the meantime, Victoria has started the first two months of the season on the road and is currently playing its home games out of Bear Mountain Arena in Colwood. However, the arena seats only 2,300 people and is far enough from downtown that attendance has been third lowest in the league.

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

The Salmon Kings are led by their 32-year-old captain, defenceman Brad Dexter. The Ontario native leads ECHL defencemen and all Salmon King players with 23 points as of press time. This is Dexter's 8th season in the ECHL.

Victoria's defence also includes Dale Purinton, a tough 28-year-old who appeared in 40 games for the NHL's New York Rangers last season. Purinton has six points in his five games with the Salmon Kings this season (he was only signed in December).

The Salmon Kings roster also boasts David Neale, Ryan Wade, Nathan Forster and Grant Sjerven. All four are Victoria natives.

ECHL players are paid much less than their NHL counterparts—teams have a weekly salary cap of $10,000 US. Players must be paid a minimum of $350 US per week.

Victoria is coached by Bryan Maxwell. Maxwell spent 11 years coaching junior hockey in the WHL, as well as two years as an assistant with the NHL's Los Angeles Kings. In his playing career, Maxwell was an NHL defenceman for St. Louis, Minnesota, Winnipeg and Pittsburgh. He had 95 points and 745 penalty minutes in his 331-game career.

As of Jan. 3, Victoria is 13 points out of a playoff spot. The season runs until early April. Single game tickets are $14 for students and can be ordered by calling 220-7777.

Big money stars don't raise ticket prices

Players' salaries are high because that's how much they're worth

by Greg Koabel, *the Carillon*

REGINA (CUP) — The New York Yankees, New York Rangers and Los Angeles Lakers are all teams that, through their big spending on free agents, have forced ticket prices up and have been bilking fans for years, right? Wrong.

Not only is the assumption high player salaries equal high ticket-prices incorrect, but also its prevalence among fans has created a distorted vision of the relationships between players, owners and fans. You can blame Manny Ramirez for his inability to catch a fly ball, but you cannot blame his multi-million dollar salary for the over-priced folding chair your ass is chafing on.

Let's take the oft-noted small market Minnesota Twins for example. Say they charge $10 for a ticket and sell 40,000 a game. That equals $400,000 in revenue.

Now Twins owner Carl Pohlad is no moron. He's not charging $10 because he's a nice guy. He's charging that price because his marketing people know only 32,000 people will attend a game if he charges $12, giving him a revenue of $384,000. Similarly, he does not lower the price to $8 because that only brings in a few more souls to raise attendance to 42,000, leaving him with $336,000 in revenue.

Now suppose the Twins sign Carlos Beltran this off-season for $15 million. Oh no! Gone are the Twins' low ticket-prices. They'll have to raise them to pay for poor old Carlos, right? Afraid not.

If the Twins were foolish enough to do that (and we've already established they're not), then they'd be getting less revenue than before. You increase costs by signing Beltran, so to make up for it you quickly lower your revenue.

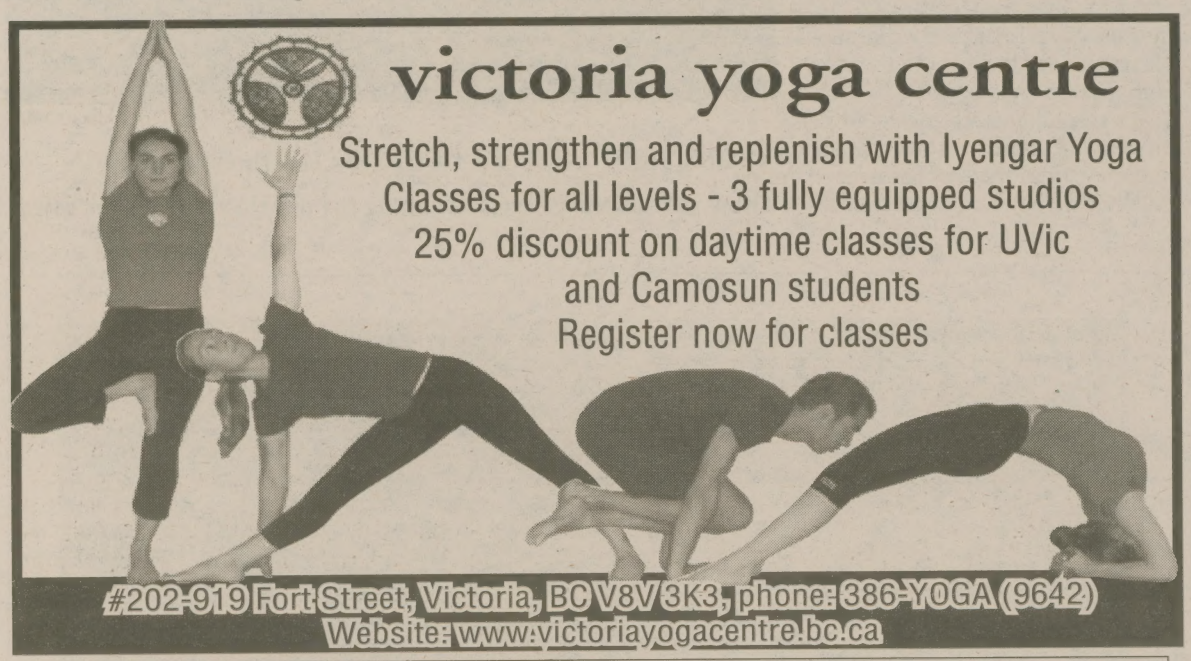
In fact, fans appear to have the whole sports world upside down. Ticket prices aren't raised so teams can afford to dole out huge contracts. The reverse is true. Fans are knuckle-headed enough to give these teams all their money, year after year, and players and owners alike are merely sharing the money thrown at them by fans.

Ticket prices are not too high. If they were, people would stop paying them. Teams would scramble to lower prices to get their customers back and players would no longer be worth $15 million. If there can be one person to blame for high salaries and high ticket prices, it's you, the fan.

When Gary Bettman gripes about the NHL players' union inflating salaries by refusing to accept a salary cap, and this being detrimental to the fans' pocketbooks, he is lying through his teeth. The reason a Leafs ticket costs $50 is because Leafs fans think a hockey game is worth $50 to see, not because the Leafs are over-paid geriatrics. The reason Alex Rodriguez was paid $252 million is the fans' money makes him worth that much.

So while you can talk about small market teams carefully developing their talent and ensuring they get their bang for their buck, don't delude yourself into thinking any of that is improving the fans' lot, economically speaking.

Teams like the Twins and Athletics may be examples of efficient team management, and the dominance of large market teams like the Yankees may be ruining baseball. But suggesting ticket prices are, in any way, related to player salaries is just plain wrong.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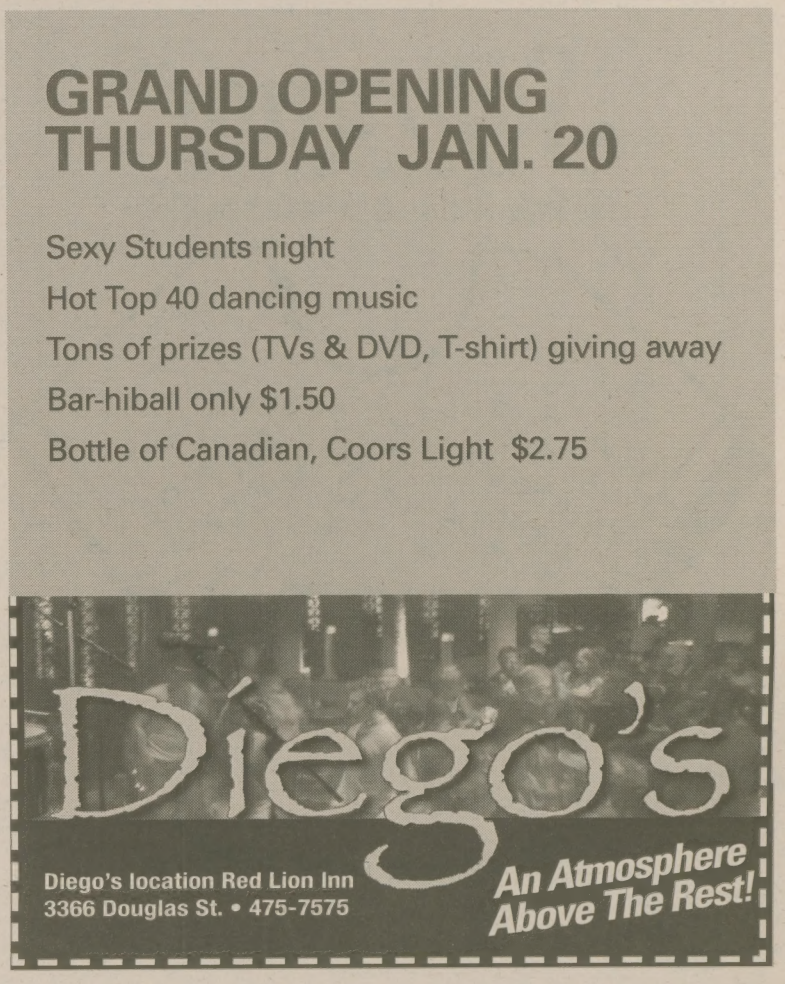
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It's New Jersey for Vince Carter

Toronto dumps star player

by Aaron Williams

Vince Carter. Vinsanity! The Rookie of the Year, slam-dunk champion, Olympic gold medalist, perennial All-Star and charity game organizer has been traded for three role players and a pair of mediocre draft picks. How did this unthinkable transaction come to pass? The answer has as much to do with the Toronto Raptors and their fans as it does with Carter.

Rewind to May 20, 2001. Having been drafted as an underclassman, Carter completed his degree through correspondence and was eager to attend his University of North Carolina commencement. The problem? The biggest game in Raptors history was scheduled to tip-off hours after the ceremony.

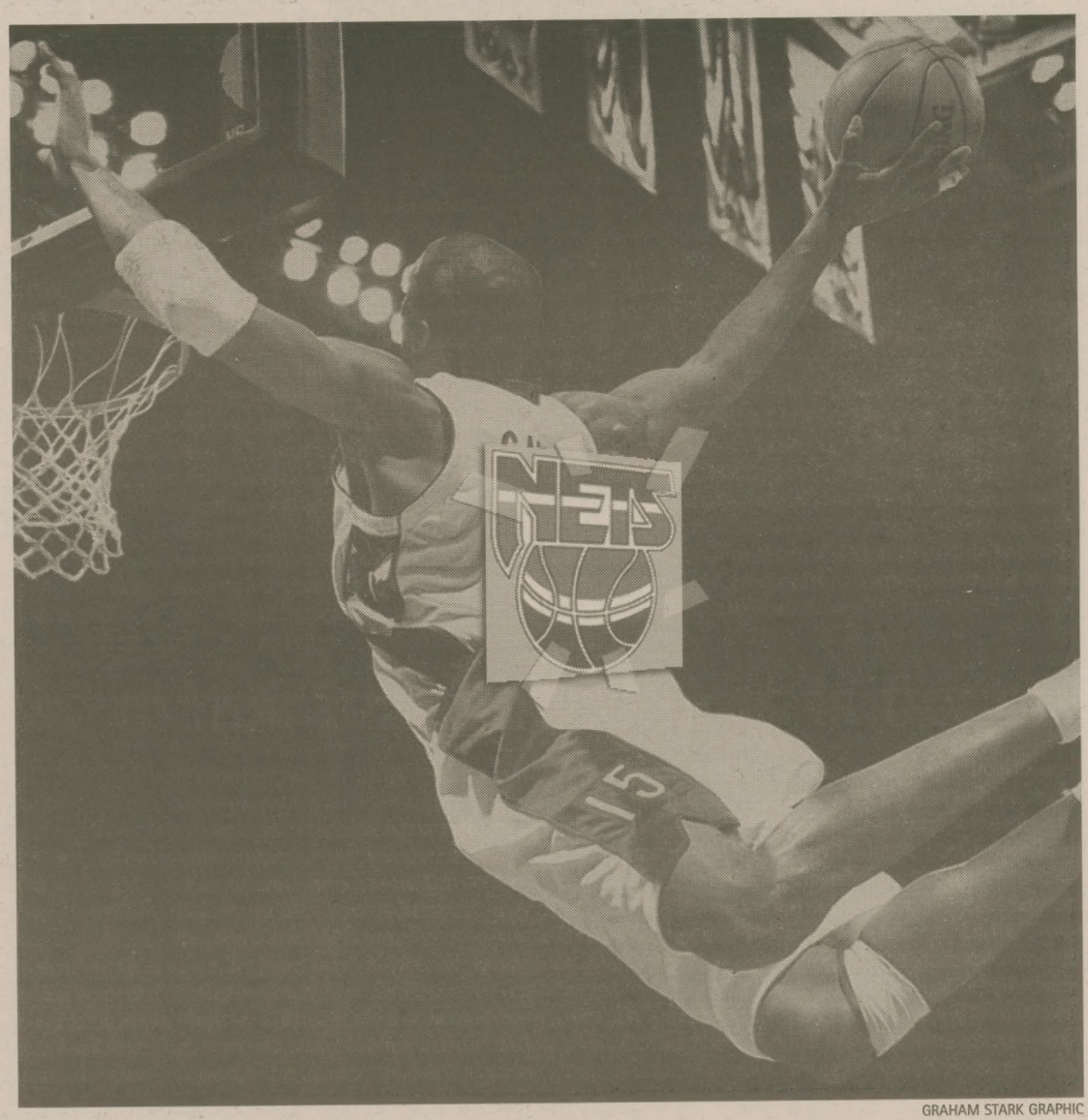
Carter elected to attend his morning graduation anyway. That evening he missed a last second shot, ending a sensational duel with Allen Iverson and sending the Philadelphia 76ers into the Eastern Conference Finals. For all the talk that "education is important" and "athletes should be role models," Toronto beat writers and sports radio hosts pounded Carter's decision.

Despite the criticism, Carter signed a six-year $94 million dollar contract extension with the Raptors. Unfortunately, that would be the last northern highlight for Carter. During the next two-plus seasons, Lemony Snicket sent Toronto a series of unfortunate events, including the hiring and firing of three coaches and a general manager, as well as a trifecta of injuries (knee, ankle and Achilles tendon) for their star player. Instead of showing unanimous support, many Torontonians turned against Carter. He's too soft! He's not a leader! He has a low pain threshold!

The constant criticism pushed Carter away, and during the summer he asked to be traded. Ignoring the principles of buy low, sell high, and the team that gets the best player wins the trade, Toronto brass put Carter on the trading block, looking for a package deal. Despite driving his value down for months on end, the hometown fans were shocked when the New Jersey Nets acquired Carter, the face of Basketball North, for Eric Williams, Aaron Williams, the last legs of Alonzo Mourning and two lottery-protected draft picks.

Could Carter's stock really be that low? Wasn't he the player who scissored a seven-footer en route to basketball's most shocking slam? Wasn't this the player who led the league in All-Star voting four seasons in a row, yet still plays a team game? And just as important, isn't Vince Carter a humble and generous person?

Here's hoping that the Toronto Raptors and their fans treat their next up-and-coming star, Chris Bosh, with more consideration. And what about "Air Canada?" The latest sightings have him slamming alley-oop passes off of backboards—in New Jersey.



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VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteers are Needed for Victoria's First Homeless Count on January 15, 2005 from Midnight to 6 a.m.. If you are available and can attend an orientation session on either Jan. 7 or 8 and a community dinner on Jan 10, 2005, please contact mclarke@coolaid.org

Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Food Animals are looking for members to take an active part in their organization. Our mission is "a stress-free life and a humane death for food animals." Contact L. Dymond at 388-5165 or littlerockstables@shaw.ca

Good-Hearted Volunteers Needed!
Explore your strengths and improve your job opportunities! Here at Recreation Integration Victoria we facilitate active lifestyles for people with disabilities so we are asking you to include someone into your recreation or leisure regime. To take advantage of this great volunteer opportunity please call **Danielle at 477-6314**.

ON CAMPUS

PERCEPTIONS OF REALITY PUBLIC TALK—Buddhist Monk and International Teacher, Gen-la Samden Gyatso will teach on the True Nature of Reality - how our mind creates our world and has the potential to attain lasting happiness and inner peace Thurs. Jan 13th, 7-9p.m. Cadboro Commons Bldg.UVICMcKenzie Rm.$12 general;$8 Student/Sr. 592-7164.
www.MeditateinVictoria.org

Victoria Jung Society Lecture
Bert Chase, Adam's Turning: On the Estrangement of the Masculine Archetype 7:30 pm. Jan. 14, 2005. David Strong Building C116. $10 members, $15 non-members.

The Native Plant Study Group
Project Manager, Paula Hesje will speak about the Gorge Restoration Project. Thurs. Jan. 20, 2005 at 7pm. UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-116. Non member drop-in fee: $2

Looking for alternative sources of information on issues such as globalization, militarism, sustainable living, queer issues, racism and economics? Come to the VIPIRG library in SUB b122.

Pregnant? Explore the diversity of choices available to you. Contact holywild@uvic.ca for more info.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Victoria Writers' Society will present the winners of their 2004 writing contest following a short AGM, on Wednesday, January 12, 2005, 7:15 p.m. at New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street. Guests welcome.
www.victoriawriters.org

Live it for one day. Can you? WUSC UVic is holding a Refugee Camp Simulation on Jan. 6 and 7 in front of the library. Join us for an education and awareness event to learn about the issues that effect the world's 17.1 million refugees. More info. from wuscuvic@hotmail.com

Attention Graduating Students: The Grad Class Executive needs your input for the Legacy Project! Email your submissions to legacy@fun-play-net

Join the UVic Chess Club
Come and learn to play chess or improve your game. Club meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30-10 in the HSD building room A260. Contact dejamer@hotmail.com for more info. and put "chess" in subject box. Hope to see you there.

MENTORS NEEDED
Mentor an elementary student 1 hr/week. Play games, sports, make crafts, read and cook. For more info. call Bonnie at Big Brothers Big Sisters 475-1117, ext. 46.

Salute to Vienne
Royal Theatre Jan. 16 at 2:30 p.m. and Jan. 17 at 8 p.m.. The Victoria Symphony presents *Midsummer Night's Dream*, featuring the Victoria Children's Choir and narrator Christopher Gaze. Timothy Vernon conducts. Tickets: $42, $32, $24.

World Religion Day
"Elimination of all types of prejudice"
Jan 16, 2-4 p.m.. Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre in the Galleon Rm., 1767 Island Hwy. Free Admission and Refreshments. Maxwell Dance Workshop Performance. for more info. call 882-9999 or 382-9998.

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HEY YOU!

Hey @! I need a replacement for dutchie and more munchies in the office! U better have missed me at NC. I got drunk all by myself in T.O ...OH and I have a BIG secret crush on our VP Alumni and FYI the sexy asian is no longer single! Ask him for details. AND the confused german born korean owes me more chocolate!

Hey David and Mavis (aka Mavid), my cute little members! I think it's one of our traditions to pie @ers when they get together, so watch out!

Too much love will kill you—If you swallow it all at once. So please, don't be greedy.

Take off your socks forever, you free-loving, free-loading hippies! Joy to sandals; joy to birkenstocks; joy to less laundry.

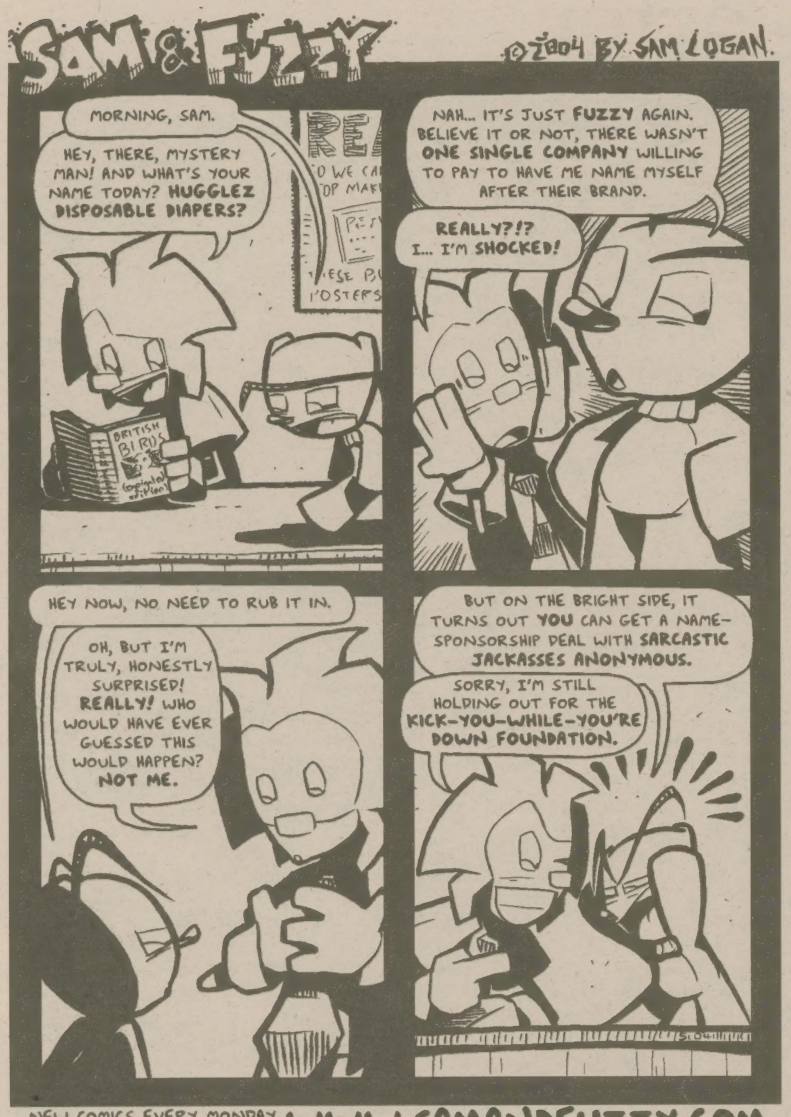
Christmas was sweet, Mamoth, baby. Thanks for the hand-sew gift. I don't see it as cheap, but thrifty and creative.

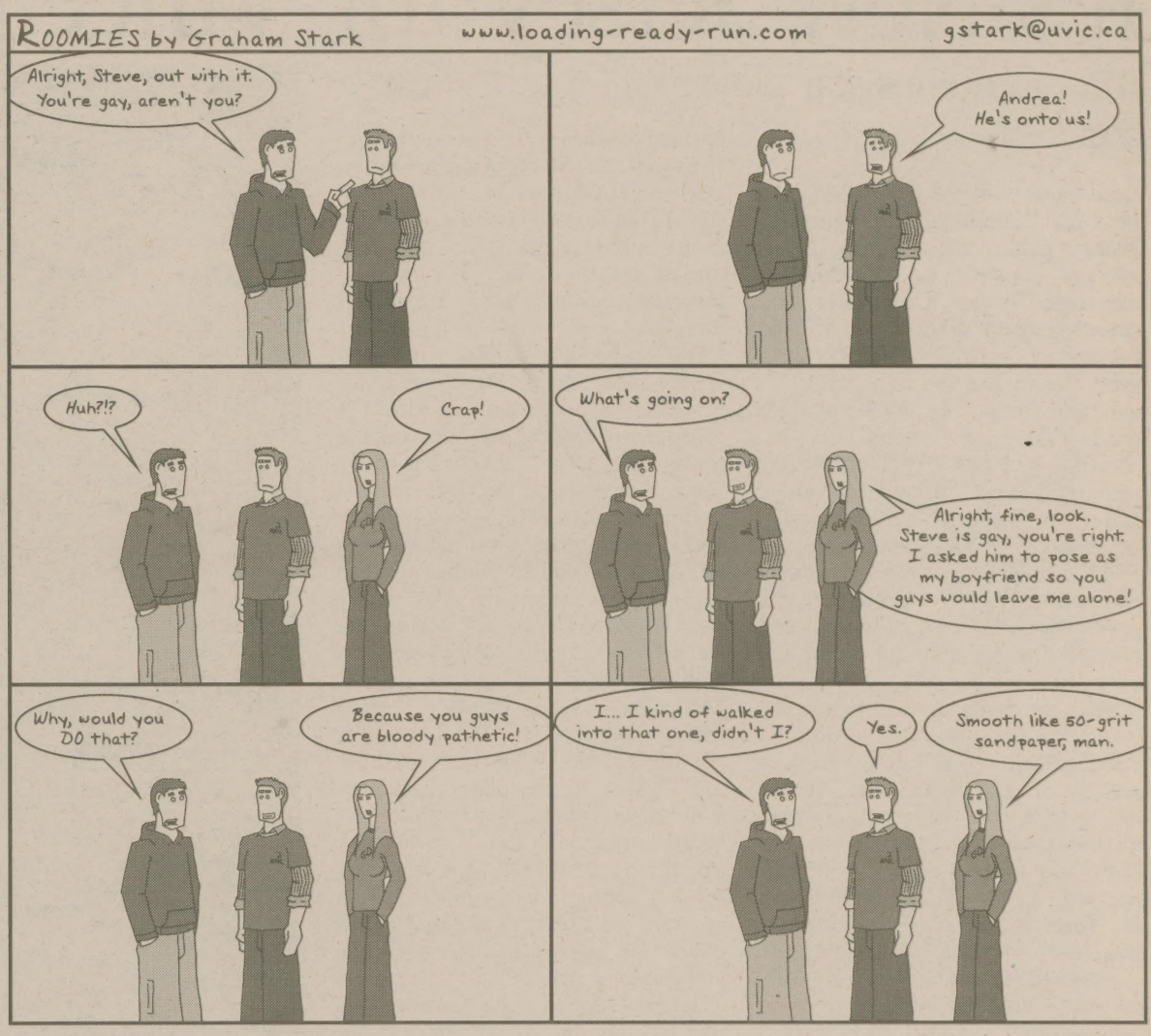
Who knew going Canwest Mall could hold such adventure? We did. Who knew the Zeller's food would be so horrendous? We didn't. Go Team (ad)Venture!

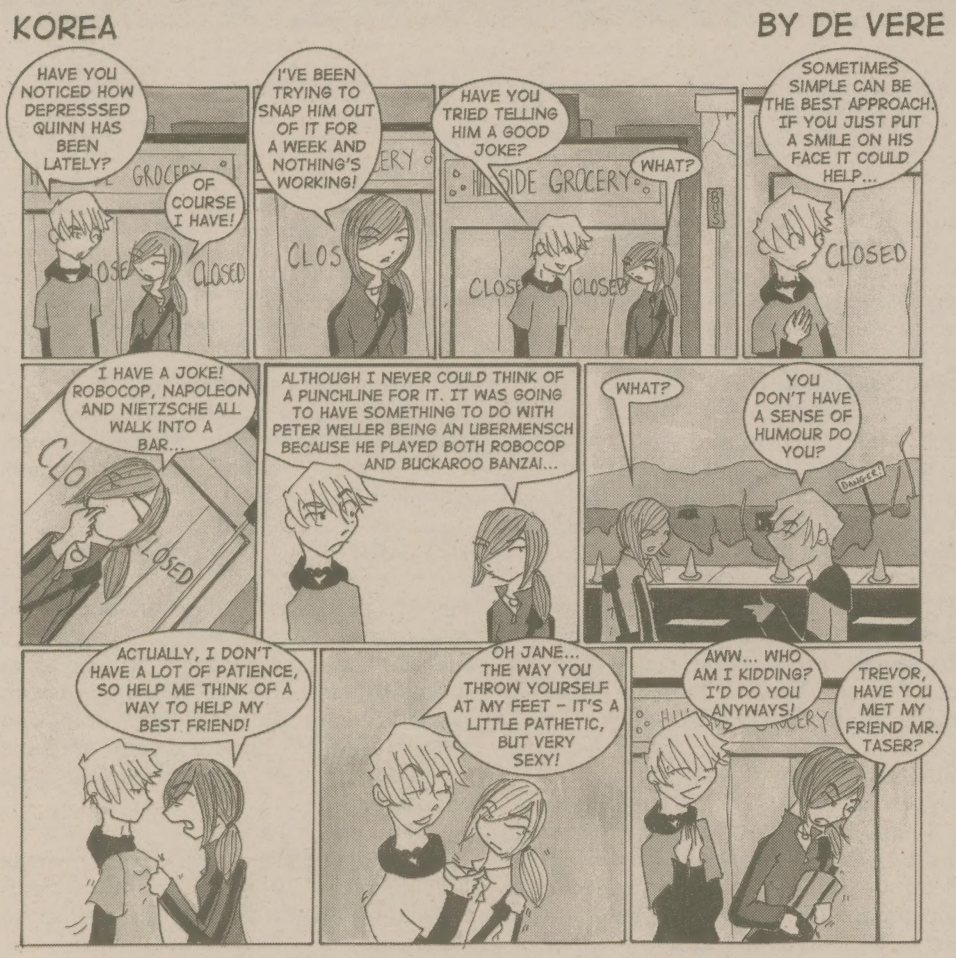
Let's go and have some funs! Who's with me? I am! Me too! And me! Sounds like a party. You know when. I know where. Wink, wink...

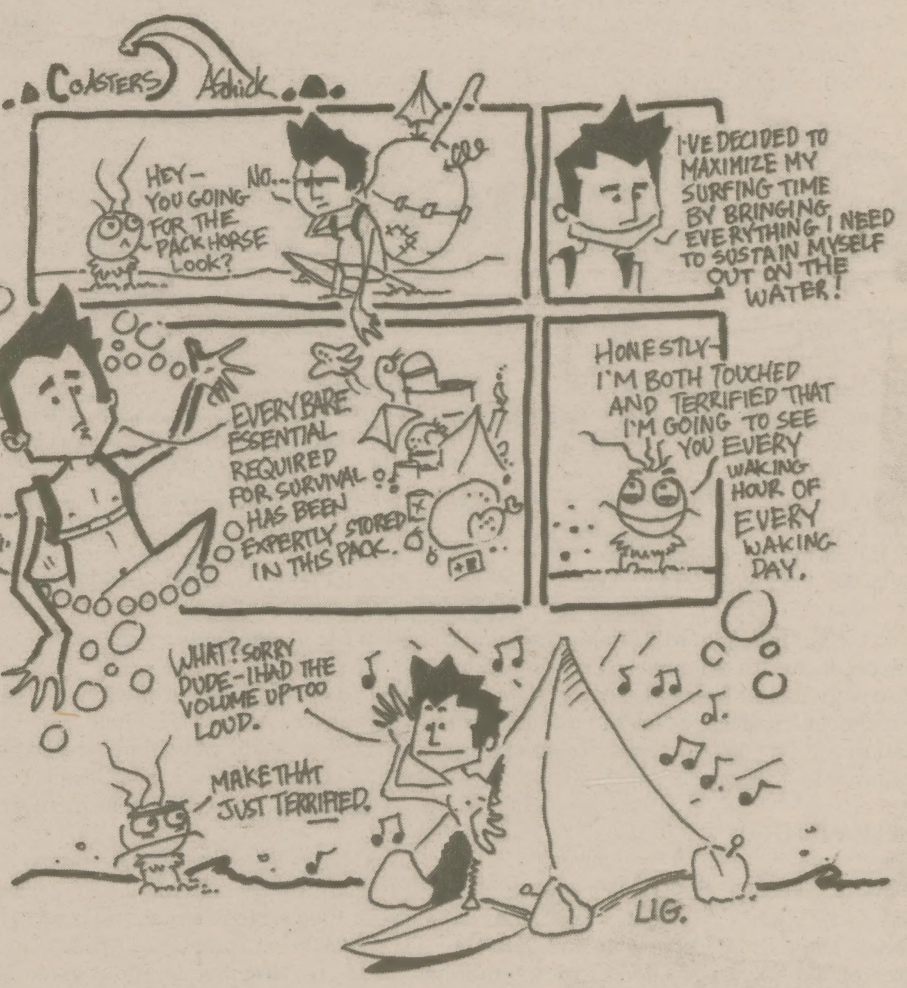
CLASSIFIED RATES

Students and clubs | $2/issue
Non-students | $2/line
Businesses | $6/line
Hey you! | free


SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN.
MORNING, SAM.
HEY, THERE, MYSTERY MAN! AND WHAT'S YOUR NAME TODAY? HUGGLEZ DISPOSABLE DIAPERS?
NAH... IT'S JUST FUZZY AGAIN. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THERE WASN'T ONE SINGLE COMPANY WILLING TO PAY TO HAVE ME NAME MYSELF AFTER THEIR BRAND.
REALLY?!? I... I'M SHOCKED!
HEY NOW, NO NEED TO RUB IT IN.
OH, BUT I'M TRULY, HONESTLY SURPRISED! REALLY! WHO WOULD HAVE EVER GUESSED THIS WOULD HAPPEN? NOT ME.
BUT ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT TURNS OUT YOU CAN GET A NAME-SPONSORSHIP DEAL WITH SARCASTIC JACKASSES ANONYMOUS.
SORRY, I'M STILL HOLDING OUT FOR THE KICK-YOU-WHILE-YOU'RE DOWN FOUNDATION.
NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM


ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Alright, Steve, out with it: You're gay, aren't you?
Andrea! He's onto us!
Huh?!?
Crap!
What's going on?
Alright, fine, look. Steve is gay, you're right. I asked him to pose as my boyfriend so you guys would leave me alone!
Why, would you DO that?
Because you guys are bloody pathetic!
I... I kind of walked into that one, didn't I?
Yes.
Smooth like 50-grit sandpaper, man.


KOREA
BY DE VERE
HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW DEPRESSSED QUINN HAS BEEN LATELY?
OF COURSE I HAVE!
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO SNAP HIM OUT OF IT FOR A WEEK AND NOTHING'S WORKING!
HAVE YOU TRIED TELLING HIM A GOOD JOKE?
WHAT?
SOMETIMES SIMPLE CAN BE THE BEST APPROACH. IF YOU JUST PUT A SMILE ON HIS FACE IT COULD HELP...
I HAVE A JOKE! ROBOCOP, NAPOLEON AND NIETZSCHE ALL WALK INTO A BAR...
ALTHOUGH I NEVER COULD THINK OF A PUNCHLINE FOR IT. IT WAS GOING TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH PETER WELLER BEING AN UBERMENSCH BECAUSE HE PLAYED BOTH ROBOCOP AND BUCKAROO BANZAI...
WHAT?
YOU DON'T HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOUR DO YOU?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF PATIENCE, SO HELP ME THINK OF A WAY TO HELP MY BEST FRIEND!
OH JANE... THE WAY YOU THROW YOURSELF AT MY FEET - IT'S A LITTLE PATHETIC, BUT VERY SEXY!
AWW... WHO AM I KIDDING? I'D DO YOU ANYWAYS!
TREVOR, HAVE YOU MET MY FRIEND MR. TASER?


COASTERS
ASHLEY
HEY- YOU GOING FOR THE PACK HORSE LOOK?
NO...
I'VE DECIDED TO MAXIMIZE MY SURFING TIME BY BRINGING EVERYTHING I NEED TO SUSTAIN MYSELF OUT ON THE WATER!
EVERY BARE ESSENTIAL REQUIRED FOR SURVIVAL HAS BEEN EXPERTLY STORED IN THIS PACK.
HONESTLY I'M BOTH TOUCHED AND TERRIFIED THAT I'M GOING TO SEE YOU EVERY WAKING HOUR OF EVERY WAKING DAY.
WHAT? SORRY DUDE- I HAD THE VOLUME UP TOO LOUD.
MAKE THAT JUST TERRIFIED.
LIG.

AVERAGE STUDENT MAN C+
Andy Cuthbert
DAMN, ANOTHER SLEEPLESS NIGHT, I CANT BELIEVE I HAVE TO GET UP IN FOUR HOURS...
I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT MR. SANDMAN AROUND FOR QUITE AWHILE... WONDER WHERE HE IS?
THINK! THINK! THERE MUST BE A WAY TO LURE THAT DEVIANT FAIRY INTO GIVING ME SOME SHUT EYE!
WONDER IF HE LIKES BOOZE...
FREE BEER!